

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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MAR 16 1978

Item 856-B-6 PrEx 7.10: FBIS-MEA-78-47

FBIS-MEA-78-47
Thursday
9 March 1978
Vol V No 47

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

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VOP PRAISES PALESTINIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS

JN071927Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT
7 Mar 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary: "On the Palestinian-Soviet Relations and Their Horizons"]

[Text] Throughout the stages of the Palestinian revolution's struggle, Palestinian-Soviet relations have been and still are a sound and honest model of relations between the progressive forces which are waging a principled and courageous struggle for the right of peoples to determine their destiny and to repulse the offensives of the fierce imperialist forces which are aimed at subjugating them and imposing their ugly hegemony on them.

Palestinian-Soviet relations have been characterized by increasing growth, which the Palestinian revolution and the Soviet Union have been determined to protect and develop out of mutual conviction. Palestinian-Soviet relations constitute a prerequisite for the steadfastness of the Palestinian and Arab struggle as well as important momentum for the Palestinian and Arab struggle--as is explicit in the dangerous and important positions against U.S. imperialism, Zionism and their agents in the region, because these forces have huge potentials, almost unparalleled in any other part of the world, and because these forces concoct dangerous plots aimed at tightening their domination of this area and imposing absolute hegemony on its peoples and destinies.

The results of the Palestinian-Soviet relation have crystallized clearly, prominently and effectively through the principled stands adopted by the Soviet Union in the interests of the Palestinian issue and the brave revolutionary struggle waged by the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO. These stands have been expressed through the joint statements issued at the end of every Palestinian-Soviet meeting and immediately put into practice as a result of strong and effective Soviet support for the Palestinian revolution on all levels. We cannot forget the Soviet Union's insistence on the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, self-determination and establishment of their national independent state on their national soil and under the leadership of the PLO as an irrevocable condition for the achievement of a just and lasting peace.

This Soviet stand has become a solid pillar which cannot be overlooked whenever talking about peace in the Middle East. It has come as an enlightened and just response to a deeply rooted objective fact created by the adamant struggle of the Palestinian people under their armed revolution. This fact is the impossibility of imposing a lasting and final peace in the Middle East by ignoring the Palestinian force, as represented by the PLO and what it puts forward regarding just national aims, the most important of which is the aim of establishing an independent Palestinian state on national Palestinian soil.

This fact has been established as the basis for the stands of all friendly and allied forces toward the Middle East issue and the Palestinian question, and it has also acquired effective and decisive dimensions by aborting all imperialist, Zionist and reactionary moves aimed at concocting peace formulas in the region at the expense of the national rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. Perhaps the most recent example of this has been the total failure of As-Sadat's capitulatory initiative, despite the huge U.S. momentum which has accompanied it and tried to insure its success. This initiative could have achieved its capitulatory aims if it had not been faced by the strong Palestinian fact, which is protected by the guns of the revolution as well as its principled stands. These are supported by the front of steadfastness and confrontation, which in turn is supported actively and effectively by all the friendly forces and states, the foremost of which is the Soviet Union, the ally and friend.

The PLO, through its enlightened understanding of the stands of all forces toward the Palestinian cause and the brave revolutionary struggle of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO, is firmly convinced of the importance of the Soviet stand in support of the just struggle of our Palestinian people, and it values this stand most highly.

Within this context and that of brother leader Abu 'Ammar's visit to the Soviet Union--a visit which all political observers say comes at the right time--there will certainly be influential political results in the course of events in our region, taking into consideration the basic role played by the Palestinian revolution in the face of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary moves in the region. This role enjoys strong support and backing from the friendly Soviet Union.

KUWAITI PAPER INTERVIEWS PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN

LD081600Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 4 Mar 78 p 14 LD

[Interview granted by 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO spokesman, to AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM correspondents Yusuf al-Masad'id and Muhammad Yunis in Damascus]

[Excerpts] Asked about U.S. policy in the area and how can it be opposed, particularly since President as-Sadat relies on this policy in claiming that 99 percent of the cards are in the hands of the United States, the official PLO spokesman said:

The U.S. policy being pursued in the area is rejected by the front because it is based on unbridled support and strategic commitment to the Zionist entity and its expansionist and aggressive policy and because it denies the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to their homeland. Therefore, current U.S. policy is biased in favor of the Zionist enemy and is a policy hostile to the national Arab aspirations and the rights of the Palestinian people. This matter is quite clear and evident to all Arab public opinion and to all Arab officials without exception. Perhaps the reason the United States is encouraged to pursue such a policy is the slackness of the Arabs in replying to it and opposing it seriously enough.

Abu Mayzar said: Obviously the U.S. policy is aimed at dominating the Arab area and placing it with all its wealth and resources under a U.S.-Israeli umbrella. But to understand the dramatic developments of the past 2 months, including President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and the subsequent destruction of Arab solidarity in the face of the Zionist enemy and the departure from the Arab unanimity that was achieved through the Rabat Arab summit resolutions, we must go back to the U.S. position as set out by the U.S. secretary of state before his recent visit to the area--in other words, the position that Cyrus Vance conveyed to Arab officials in August. This position clearly shows that the U.S. policy is based on perpetuating Zionist aggression and ignoring Arab rights and particularly the Palestine problem.

During the visit in question Cyrus Vance carried a working paper which he considered a principal basis for solving the Middle East problem. The five-point working paper says:

1. The objective of any negotiations is to conclude a peace agreement between Israel and the Arab states.
2. The basis of negotiations is Security Council Resolution 242.

3. Security Council Resolution 242 as understood by the United States not only means ending the state of war but also the establishment of complete peaceful relations--political, economic, cultural, tourist and so forth.

4. In the opinion of the United States the Security Council resolution means Israeli withdrawal on three fronts to secure and recognize borders to be determined through negotiations. Withdrawal will run parallel with the establishment of peaceful relations referred to in the clause above, provided that withdrawal takes place in stages over several years to be determined. The appropriate guarantees to achieve this are to be determined by bilateral committees to be formed between Israel and Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

5. The final settlement must include the establishment of a Palestinian entity and not a state after alterations are carried out in the West Bank. Such an entity will be demilitarized and socially and economically open to Israel. It will be put under an international-preferable Israeli-Jordanian--trusteeship for a specific period of time, after which the Palestinians will determine their future position.

Continuing, the PLO spokesman said: These are the elements of U.S. policy and its views on solving the Middle East crisis. Evidently the principle of withdrawal from all the occupied territories is out of question. Also the United States rejects the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, which have been confirmed by the UN General Assembly and the Arab summit resolutions. In the final analysis this policy is aimed at placing the whole of Palestine under Israeli domination and depriving the Palestinian people of their rights, which have been usurped since 1948. The U.S. insistence on normal economic relations is aimed at placing the resources of the area, especially oil, under the U.S.-Israeli umbrella.

Abu Mayzar added: Therefore, in light of these points we see that President As-Sadat's visit was an expression of his acceptance of this U.S. policy and an implementation of clauses 2, 3, and 4 of the 5 points. On this basis we can understand the attitude of Jordan, which did not seriously object to these points. We would also understand the attitude of Syria, the PLO, and the countries of the Tripoli and Algiers summit conferences, which rejected these points and refused the liquidation of the Palestinian problem and the trading of withdrawal in return for the Palestinian people's rights. Therefore, the Arab kings and heads of state who have supported As-Sadat's steps, although few in number, have adopted a hostile attitude toward the Palestinian people and their national rights and thus have encouraged steps aimed at squandering Arab rights.

Speaking about Palestinian-Syrian relations, Abu Mayzar said: There is no doubt that these relations passed through a difficult crisis during the tragic Lebanese events but since the Cairo conference things have gradually been returning to normal. It can be said that the Syrian and Palestinian sides have made long strides toward normalization of these relations. The Tripoli conference and the birth of the national front that emerged from it have contributed to strengthening fraternal Palestinian-Syrian relations. This was symbolized in the setting up of a higher coordination committee between both sides that carries out joint planning of political activities. The committee also deals with outstanding problems and any new problems that may crop up between both sides. It must be pointed out here that the Algiers conference stressed the importance of Syrian-Palestinian cohesion, particularly at this stage, because it represents a basic bulwark in confronting hostile plans. It also constitutes a central link in the growth of the national front and in enhancing its Arab and international effectiveness.

Speaking about recent events in Lebanon, Abu Mayzar said: The PLO stand is based on adherence to the rights and commitments that devolved upon us from the Cairo Agreement and its supplements. Within this framework we believe in and work for stability in Lebanon and respect for its independence and sovereignty and the integrity of its people and soil. We also refuse to accept any Arab country as a substitute homeland for us. We are struggling for the sake of our return to our homeland, Palestine, regardless of the sacrifices.

Asked about the Palestinian revolution's ability to face potential challenges, he said: The strength of the PLO does not lie in its being only a political organization because, were that so, what happened in Jordan and Lebanon would have been enough to finish it. But the PLO, being the representative and symbol of our cause and our people's rights, has been able to stand fast and to overcome all the difficult crises it has faced.

Abu Mayzar was asked: The other side is obviously concentrating on the question of the arrival of arms in southern Lebanon. What is the purpose of this, in your opinion, and are such arms indeed arriving? If so, why is Israel keeping silent?

He replied: Obviously the enemies of the Palestinian revolution continuously spread rumors and create smokescreens in order to divert Arab public opinion from their conspiratorial plans. What the other side is saying about the resistance arms in the south is in fact a link in this chain. Under the Cairo Agreement and its supplements the revolution has been in the south for a long time and the rumors being spread by the other side are false. As for Israel, its attitude is evident in its continued attacks on the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The Palestinian people are facing their own destiny in the south alone as it is well known that there are no Arab forces there.

Speaking about the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog he said: After the Rabat summit a meeting was held by the confrontation states at the Arab League headquarters and a statement was issued then. Later a Palestinian delegation headed by the chairman of the Palestine National Council, Khalid al-Fahum, visited Jordan and began talks with Jordanian officials. But this dialog did not continue for reasons that have nothing to do with the Palestinians. During the Arab-African summit a meeting was held between Abu 'Ammar and King Husayn. Abu 'Ammar expressed the readiness of the Palestinian side to continue the dialog on the basis of the Rabat resolution and asked the Jordanian side to fix a date. But days and months passed without the Jordanian side's showing any desire to do so.

He added: At this stage the United States is exerting urgent efforts to involve Jordan in the current negotiations between the Egyptian and Israeli officials. We believe that any Jordanian participation in these negotiations would constitute a hostile attitude toward the Palestinian problem. The Tripoli and Algiers conferences already said this clearly. Along with the U.S. attempts to involve Jordan in the negotiations, attempts were made which are neither in the interest of the Palestinian people or the brotherly Jordanian people. Rather such attempts are a continuation of the Israeli-U.S. policy of Arabizing the conflict and creating subconflicts among the Arabs themselves. The real interests of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples lie in Jordan's continued adherence to the Rabat resolutions and their implementation.

As we draw attention to these facts, we also draw attention to the political dangers involved in trying to drag Jordan into participation in the current negotiations between Cairo and Tel Aviv and the potential negative effects this will have on Palestinian-Jordanian relations. In the meantime, the PLO has always been and still is anxious to implement the Rabat resolutions between itself and Jordan in order to resist the Zionist occupation and to benefit from such implementation in all the Arab areas around Palestine.

'ARAFAT, PLO DELEGATION BEGIN VISIT TO USSR

For TASS and Moscow Radio accounts of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Moscow on 6 March at the head of a PLO delegation, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 7 March DAILY REPORT.

QADDUMI COMMENTS ON PROSPECTS OF JORDAN DIALOG

JN072025Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 7 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Regarding the statements made by Francois Mitterrand, first secretary of the French Socialist Party, concerning the PLO, brother Abu al-Lutf said: The PLO greatly regrets statements such as those made by Mitterrand concerning the PLO, its competence and so forth.

The PLO realizes that these statements were made on the occasion of the imminent French elections and at a time when the French Socialist Party was waging an election campaign in an attempt to reach power. Mr Mitterrand seems to imagine that such statements may give him the Zionist votes which will enable him to win over his competitors. But the Socialist Mitterrand seems to forget that the French Government had previously adopted a clear and progressive stand toward the PLO, after which the PLO opened an information and contacts office.

It would be more proper for Mitterrand, who is the first secretary of the Socialist Party, to be more progressive in his stands and support the just issues of the peoples, the foremost of which is the just cause of the Palestinian people under the PLO, rather than to make of this very just cause a topic of competition and influence in the elections.

Regarding the truth of reports carried by newspapers and news agencies concerning a Palestinian-Jordanian dialog and whether, as certain newspapers have hinted, this dialog exists and is continuing, brother Abu al-Lutf said: It seems that there are [words indistinct] trying to drag the PLO into their well-known stands. At any rate, we previously asked for such a dialog with Jordan. We [words indistinct] to that end in an intensified manner following the summit conference held in Rabat in 1974. This summit approved such a dialog.

This was under ordinary circumstances, and the national and pan-Arab interests called for it. However, at that time Jordan continued to stall, object and hesitate. Today this issue arises anew. We will not only say that there is no truth to the reports that there is a dialog between us and Jordan but we will also say that we have our own terms to bring about such a dialog so that it will not be used as a coverup for any Jordanian participation in the current negotiations between the Egyptian regime and Israel.

The most important condition which must be clear before conducting any dialog is a clear proclamation by Jordan that it will not enter into bilateral negotiations [with Israel] and will join the front of steadfastness and confrontation. It should also be understood that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Jordan should also announce that it still supports the Rabat summit resolutions of 1974 which stipulate the necessity of establishing an independent Palestinian state.

These are fundamental conditions for a Palestinian-Jordanian dialog. As for what has been said about a Palestinian delegation being in Amman, this is not true.

A last point I would like to mention in this regard is that we are constantly holding consultations with all the members of the front of steadfastness and confrontation, particularly fraternal Syria, to adopt unified stands regarding all issues.

ABU IYAD COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN S. LEBANON

LD071203Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 2 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Ahmed Fattani report on undated interview in Beirut with Fatah leader Abu Iyad]

[Excerpt] "There are forces trying to conspire against the Palestinian revolution, Syria and other countries. [Abu Iyad said] among them is the Lebanese political movement formed, on the one hand, by the 'Lebanese front,' made up of isolationist forces, which provokes the Palestinian revolution continuously and, on the other hand, the forces of the Moslem right, which have begun to move closer to the 'Lebanese front,' at the Palestinians' expense.

"At present we are witnessing a joint offensive, launched on the basis of an erroneous interpretation of the events in southern Lebanon. In order to put an end to certain abuses, we have tried on our part to strike all who are wronging the masses with a mailed fist. Israel is seeking to take advantage of this situation. Today, some of the Lebanese, both Christians and Moslems, are provoking the Palestinians.

"The go-ahead for the conspiracy will be given in Lebanon and its execution will begin in the south. The isolationists of Marj' Uyun, Al-Khiyam and Al-Qulay'at will then attempt to escalate the war.

"Israel will then seize the chance to intervene and at this point the scene of fighting will spread to the streets of Beirut and the whole of Lebanon.

"This is a clear conspiracy. To thwart it, the Palestinian revolution, sincere Lebanese citizens and the nationalist movements must joint forces and support President Ilyas Sarkis with all their might, for he represents Lebanese unity. There must of necessity be mutual concessions, but it is important that we block the attempts of the forces trying to harm us.

"We were against the Lebanese war, but it was imposed on us, if we are pushed into a new Lebanese war we will defend ourselves to the last gasp. The responsibility for such a war will therefore fall on those who are attempting to revive the conflict.

"We do not favor a battle or a war. We must stretch out our hands to everyone in Lebanon so that no obstacle to national entente can exist.

"Yet the conspirators are continuing their maneuvers. The Palestinian attitude is well known: preservation of Lebanese unity and its salvation. But this does not mean that we will not defend our revolution to the last man if it is threatened. We will not allow anyone in the world to eliminate us. Those who are trying to hatch a fresh plot against Lebanon will pay dearly for it. We warn these people against any attempt to stir up another Lebanese crisis.

"I am certain that the Syrians will not permit it, for their presence in Lebanon is aimed at preventing the partition of this country and protecting the Palestinian revolution. For this reason they will not allow anyone to disturb the peace in the country. If some people are counting on the support Israel will give them they are mistaken, since Israel on the contrary is seeking to extend its area of belligerence to the entire Arab nation.

"We stand for Lebanese reconciliation and the halting of all maneuvers which may damage Lebanon, and as a result, the Palestinian revolution."

AL-ASAD, KING HUSAYN REPORTEDLY TO MEET SOON

NC080815Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0735 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 8 March--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, in a report from Damascus, says that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn of Jordan are expected to meet in Damascus in the new few days. The paper points out that the rapprochement between the two countries had cooled off somewhat in the past few months because of what Syrian political sources consider as a difference in the attitudes of the two countries toward Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative.

AL-WATAN expresses its belief that Jordan's refusal to participate in the discussions for a settlement without an Israeli pledge to completely withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and insure the Palestinian people's rights has opened the door wide for the restoration of Jordanian-Syrian relations to what they had been since the beginning of 1975.

INA: OPEC TO HOLD UNOFFICIAL MEETING 3 APRIL

JN081857Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 8 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 8 March--INA has learned that OPEC will hold an unofficial meeting in Geneva on 3 April. It is expected that the meeting will discuss the drop in the dollar value, as it is the monetary unit used by the OPEC members.

SYRIAN, ALGERIAN, PALESTINIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS MEET

JN072134Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Mar 78 JN

[Text] A meeting of delegations from the People's Assembly in Syria, the National People's Assembly of Algeria and the Palestine National Council was held in Damascus this evening. The SANA correspondent says that the three delegations discussed the means of reaching agreement on their moves at the foreign level and of distributing duties among the three councils. This is in accord with the resolutions of the Tripoli and the Algiers conferences of confrontation and steadfastness and in accord with the efforts being exerted to foil the negative results of the As-Sadat visit to occupied Jerusalem. It is aimed at positive Arab solidarity to bolster the Arab cause, which is the cause of Palestine.

KUWAIT

CONTROVERSY ON OIL PRICES, DOLLAR CONTINUES

Kuwaiti, Saudi Stand

NC090955Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 9 March--The weekly Kuwaiti newspaper AL-HADAF says today that the message which Kuwaiti ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad sent to Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and which was conveyed to his majesty by the Kuwaiti finance minister contained Kuwait's desire to have the price of oil calculated by a basket of currencies, including the dollar, provided the losses caused daily by the drop in the price of the dollar are automatically paid in dollars.

Quoting reliable sources, the paper says that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not yet given its clear opinion on this subject. The sources said, however, that Saudi Arabia is convinced that the deteriorating price of the dollar will entail great losses in its oil revenues and its investments and believes that this subject should be left for OPEC to discuss.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah has made a statement asserting that the question with regard to the deteriorating dollar is not that of payment of oil revenues in dollars--because there is no other currency which can bear the payment of amounts for the oil--but the question is whether the price of oil should continue to be computed by the dollar. He pointed out that Kuwait does not object to payment in dollars but the computation of oil prices by the dollar is considered a basic problem. Therefore, recourse to a basket of currencies for computing the price of oil is possible because this will maintain the value of the prices, whereas a continued computation of the prices by the dollar will compel us to increase prices.

AS-SIYASAH for Collective Stand

LD071045Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 5 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Ahmad al-Jarallah article: "Collective Firm Stand by Gulf and Peninsula States Required to Face This Historic Challenge"]

[Excerpts] Any slowness by the political administrations of the gulf and peninsula states to take appropriate measures regarding oil revenues will not serve the interest of this area which has lived in poverty and deprivation for many centuries.

Kuwait and other oil countries are suffering from the drop in the dollar value, the drop that the U.S. President wanted in order to obtain the U.S. Congress's endorsement of his energy policy, the price of which the oil countries are alone in paying and are paying because of a purely domestic U.S. game.

Since it has been proved that the United States cannot swallow up the whole world, then any drastic measures taken by the oil countries will not lead to the United States occupying the area militarily.

The United States has gone far in swinging the big stick, and if it is possible to accept some orders and hints [from the United States] on the grounds that a friend should not be offended, then the friend in return should not eat all the honey alone and leave nothing for the honey producers to build their civilization.

For many years we were derided by the civilized West, were the object of its ridicule and were the fertile ground of legendary myths that told stories of our backwardness, submissiveness and humility. This was in the past. But now we have the opportunity to progress and we simply must not allow the West to take stealthily and under false pretenses with the left hand what it gives us with the right, as a matter of due right.

The oil countries must break the bureaucratic and slow system by which they deal with the dollar issue before we discover that the United States and the West want us to remain the area that exports myths and legends about backward civilization.

Any tough attitude will not lead to the 6th or 5th [as written] fleet coming to Sayhad al-'Awazim or Rub' al-Khali or not even Ra's al-Khaymah because conditions now are different from those of the 18th century.

U.S. Threats Denied

LD071600Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 3 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Text] Special dispatch: Following what was published yesterday, AS-SIYASAH has ascertained that the security men who accompanied David Rockefeller were Kuwaiti security men who are trained to protect VIP visitors when there is a request for such protection. It is understood that Kuwait does not allow its visitors to be protected by security men from abroad.

Well-informed sources denied that Rockefeller carried with him any U.S. threats.

On the other hand, Rockefeller was quoted as assuring Kuwaiti officials that the drop in the dollar value could lead to U.S. Congressional approval of President Carter's energy program. This would mean a reduction in U.S. energy consumption and oil imports, which, in consequence, will have a positive impact on the U.S. balance of payments, which is suffering from a deficit of about \$43 billion.

On the other hand, economic sources said that the deficit in the U.S. balance of payments is not a tragedy because the United States faced deficits of similar volume in previous budgets but that such a deficit for a major power does not represent a catastrophe.

FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT TO NEWSMEN

NC071459Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 7 March--Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and acting minister of the interior, has said that Kuwait has agreed in principle to attend the Arab League council meeting due to be held at the league headquarters in Cairo around the end of this month. In a statement to newsmen today he said that Kuwait has sent an official note to this effect to the Arab League. Answering a question about the renewal of the Arab deterrent forces mandate in Lebanon for another 6 months, he said that the Lebanese crisis appears to be on its way to a final relaxation and that the renewal of these forces' mandate will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Arab League council.

Regarding the peaceful efforts for solving the Middle East question, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expressed the belief that UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim's proposal is the best way for resuming the discussion of a solution to the question, provided that this takes place under UN auspices, whether in Geneva or at UN headquarters. The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs also expressed the hope that the Saudi efforts for convening an Arab summit to consolidate Arab solidarity will be successful. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad affirmed that Kuwait supports any efforts in this respect and said that emotions must be calmed to create a suitable climate for the success of these efforts.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti ambassador to Cairo, Sulayman ash-Shahin, has expressed the belief that the forthcoming meeting of the Arab League will be held at the permanent delegates level, although the invitation was for convening the meeting at the foreign ministers level. In a statement to newsmen today, he confirmed that Lebanon has officially asked the Arab League to renew the mandate of the deterrent forces in Lebanon for another 6 months and that this question is at the top of the League's agenda.

Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the amir of Kuwait, today received Sulayman Majid ash-Shahin, who arrived in Kuwait the day before yesterday from Cairo for consultations with his government on this question.

KOSYGIN SENDS CONGRATULATIONS ON ANNIVERSARY

LD081827Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Sabah has received a cable of congratulations from His Excellency Mr Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the State of Kuwait and the Soviet Union. His highness sent a reply expressing thanks and appreciation.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM CRITICIZES ARAB WAR INDUSTRY

LD081934Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 7 Mar 78 p 10 LD

[Al-'Amm article: "What Did the War Industry Organization Manufacture?"]

[Text] For 3 years the meetings, conferences and contacts of the Arab war industry organization have been continuously going on. Despite all these meetings, conferences and contacts the organization has so far reached no results; in other words, not a single bullet has yet been manufactured.

Furthermore, it has been said that Ashraf Marwan, the chairman of the organization, at the latest meeting submitted a bill on his travel expenses amounting to several millions. This bill alone would have been sufficient to cover the cost of equipping a whole army division with rifles.

If the organization will continue in this state, then nobody will be surprised by the "Arab war production" being based on the organization's purchase of arms and spare parts from abroad. The organization would probably ask for certain specifications for such arms, including the trademark "Made in Egypt" or "UAE Production." The arms company will be ready to do so as long as payment is made in hard currencies.

The organization may even import arms and only change their color since paint is abundant. The result would be squandering millions for nothing.

Also, what are the arms for Egypt to be used for since it was officially declared that the October war was the last of wars? Furthermore, the UAE is capable of buying arms, any arms, including the sophisticated types.

It must be pointed out here that the UAE is currently experiencing some kind of economic and trade recession. Therefore, investing money in development projects is much better than investing it in the arms industry, considering that, in any case, such arms will not be manufactured or delivered.

Therefore, the UAE is more in need of development and economic projects than of arms. It must be noted, though, that a great part of the recent state budget was devoted to such projects.

We in Kuwait suffered as a result of arms, particularly in the 1950's. We used to buy "new weapons" which some of the competitive companies offered us. But we discovered these arms were mere "scrap" when we first used them with live ammunition. This, however, should not mean that the UAE has to carry on with this experiment to learn the lesson the same way we did.

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE MAKES STATEMENT TO KUWAITI PAPER

NC090949Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0803 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 9 March--Saudi Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has stated that if a comprehensive, just solution is eventually reached, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will consider the question of recognizing Israel within the framework of a unified stand by all the Arab states. In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM published today, Prince Fahd said that the comprehensive, just solution we are calling for is one that achieves Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and restores the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate (?rights) in their homeland and enables them to establish their state on their land. Prince Fahd added that when the Arabs enter into peace, (?they do so together), and when we raise the banner of war, all the Arabs must stand under it.

His highness said he cannot imagine the Arabs fighting without Egypt, nor can he imagine Egypt making peace with Israel and solving its problems with it in isolation from the Arabs. His highness pointed out that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat himself disclaimed such a possibility. He emphasized the importance of Arab solidarity and said that Saudi Arabia is very eager for the unity of Arab opinion and word and for the establishment of harmony and agreement in the ranks of the Arab nation. He said: We are diligently working to narrow the gap of any differences that might arise in the Arab ranks because the might of the Arabs lies in their solidarity.

SUDANESE DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES IN RIYADH

NC082057Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 2050 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 8 March--Sudanese Defense Minister and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Gen Bashir Muhammad 'Ali arrived in Riyadh from Doha this evening. He was met at the airport by Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces Gen 'Uthman al-Hamid, Air Force Commander Lt Gen As'ad az-Zuhayr and the Sudanese military attache to the kingdom.

UAE

BANGLADESH PRESIDENT ZIAUR RAHMAN MAKES VISIT

Arrives 6 March

NC062000Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 6 March--Official talks began tonight between UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman, who arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening on a 2-day official visit to the UAE.

Joint Statement Issued

NC081300Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1105 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 March--The UAE and Bangladesh have emphasized that the Palestinian issue is the core of the Middle East problem and that the establishment of a just peace in the area should be based on complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the restoration of the Palestinian people's right to their homeland and to self-determination. Bangladesh stressed its continued support for the Arab right.

In a joint statement released here at noon today on Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman's visit to the UAE, which ended today, the two states asserted their adherence to the principles of Islamic solidarity and the Islamic Action Charter to serve the interests of the Islamic states as well as their commitment to the UN resolutions which declare the Indian Ocean an area of peace outside international conflicts. They also stressed their adherence to the UN principles, including the impermissibility of the use of the threat of force and of interference in the affairs of others. They declared their adherence to the resolutions of the nonaligned states.

The two states expressed their satisfaction with the development of relations between the two countries and their desire to expand and promote economic and social cooperation and to carry out joint projects. They decided to form a joint committee of the foreign ministers of the two countries in order to strengthen this cooperation.

Bangladesh expressed its desire to live in peace with its neighbors in the Indian subcontinent.

The statement emphasized the identity of views of the two countries on the important international issues discussed by them.

The statement said that UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has accepted an invitation extended to him by President Ziaur Rahman to visit Bangladesh. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

Rahman Makes Statement

NC081234Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0802 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 March--Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman left Abu Dhabi for home this morning, following an official 2-day visit to the UAE. UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan headed those who saw him off.

Ziaur Rahman said that his talks with Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan dealt with international issues, particularly the Middle East.

In a press conference he held before his departure, Ziaur Rahman affirmed that a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and Jerusalem, and recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights are two basic conditions for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the area. He reaffirmed his country's unreserved support for the Arab states in their struggle against the Israeli enemy. Ziaur Rahman said that his discussions with Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan had fruitful and positive results aimed at strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly regarding economy and oil.

Ziaur Rahman said that the UAE has expressed readiness to participate in the financing of a number of projects in the social and economic development plan in Bangladesh and to increase trade in the future. Ziaur Rahman expressed the hope that the framework of cooperation among the Islamic states, particularly in the economic sphere, will be expanded. He also expressed his country's wish to establish good relations with the Arab states, India and Pakistan.

Ziaur Rahman indicated that general elections will take place in Bangladesh in December. Ziaur Rahman said in conclusion that His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has accepted his invitation to visit Bangladesh and that a date for the visit will be fixed later.

OIL MINISTER CALLS FOR NEW OIL-PRICING SYSTEM

NC071543Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1443 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 7 March--UAE Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Mani' al-'Utaybah has called on the OPEC states to adopt a new oil price-fixing system which will maintain the purchasing power of their oil royalties in view of the continuing decline of the dollar.

In a lecture he delivered today at the Foreign Ministry, Dr al-'Utaybah said the system he is proposing is based on a basket of new currencies. Seventy percent of this basket will consist mainly of the dollar, in addition to the currencies of other industrial countries, such as the Deutsche mark, the pound sterling, the French franc, the Swiss franc, the Japanese yen and the Canadian dollar. Twenty percent of the basket will consist of the strong currencies of some OPEC states, such as the Saudi riyal at the rate of 10 percent, the Kuwaiti dinar at the rate of 5 percent and the UAE dirham at the rate of 5 percent. Ten percent of the basket will consist of gold.

Dr al-'Utaybah described as exaggerated the reports saying that the OPEC states have lost \$15 billion as a result of the depreciation of the dollar.

He said that the bases for programming production are still a major topic of dispute among the OPEC states. OPEC countries have so far been unable to agree on the bases for programming production.

SOVIET GENERAL'S VISIT TO RA'S AL-KHAYMAH DENIED

ID071558Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 3 Mar 78 p 1 ID

[Text] The diplomatic editor writes: Gulf political sources were astonished by the reports that said that General Kolyakov, chief of the Soviet Military Operations Room in Libya, paid a visit to Ra's al-Khaymah Emirate on 19 February. These sources said that such visit could not have taken place for several reasons, mainly because of the strict security measures in the UAE state and the impossibility of such visit taking place.

The same sources also denied the reports about a new outbreak of the border crisis between the Sultanate of Oman and Ra's al-Khaymah. These reports also spoke of the arrival of a group of advisers from an Arab North African country to Ra's al-Khaymah in order to help it break the siege that the Oman Sultanate forces are laying around the disputed Ash-Shahmah area.

In the opinion of these gulf political sources, these reports are unfounded. They say that the concern the UAE political authority shows toward internal security and the relations with the fraternal neighboring countries refute such speculations.

PALESTINIAN DELEGATION REPORTEDLY ARRIVES FOR TALKS

NC081238Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0752 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 March--A Palestinian delegation headed by Rihhi 'Awad, a Fatah member and a director in the PLO Political Department, arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning on a visit of several days to the UAE. During the visit 'Awad will hold talks with UAE officials on the latest developments in the Arab area.

YEMEN-PDRY

'MINOR' CABINET RESHUFFLE REPORTEDLY DECREED

JN071450Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 7 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 7 March--Salim Rubayyi 'Ali, chairman of the PDRY Presidential Council, has carried out a minor reshuffle in the Yemeni Cabinet. According to the two decrees which have been issued here, the posts of minister of state for presidential affairs, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of state for local administration affairs have been abolished. These posts were formerly occupied by 'Ali Salim al-A'war, Nasr Nasir 'Ali and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, respectively.

In today's reshuffle Nasr Nasir 'Ali was appointed acting minister of labor and civil service to succeed 'Ali Asad Muthana, who was appointed secretary of the cabinet with the rank of minister. 'Ali Salim al-A'war was appointed presidential secretary with the rank of minister.

AS-SADAT SENDS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER

NC082330Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2314 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 March--In Thursday's issue, AL-AHRAM says that President Anwar as-Sadat, during his latest meeting with Alfred Atherton, the American envoy in the Middle East--before Atherton's departure for Jerusalem and his return to Washington--asked Atherton to convey a verbal message to U.S. President Carter affirming Egypt's determination to continue the efforts to achieve a durable and just peace in the area.

The paper adds that President as-Sadat's message to President Carter expresses Egypt's gratitude for and appreciation of the efforts which Atherton is exerting in the area. It also deals with the attitude of Egypt and what it expects of the United States as far as continuing the peace efforts is concerned. The message also expresses the expectation that the United States will not let this initiative, which is in the interests of the peoples in the area and world peace--the aim for which President as-Sadat has been working with all his strength--slip through its hands.

AL-AHRAM goes on to say that the message also deals with the importance of overcoming the difficulties standing in the way of reaching an agreement on the declaration of principles, which would enable progress toward peace with confidence, resolve and determination.

AL-JUMHURIYAH ON FIRST ROUND OF ATHERTON'S MISSION

NC090907Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Writing about the match which Israel is playing with the assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, Alfred Atherton, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The first round of the U.S. envoy's mission in the Middle East has ended. The Israeli performance in the first round was more than bad. The Israeli team was playing in a provocative and arrogant manner. Neither the spectators nor the referee enjoyed the performance. On the contrary, it roused the dissatisfaction and displeasure of the entire world, including the United States, which played the role of referee in the first round. In this round America did not go to the playing field in order to constitute a side with the players or to raise the standard of the Israeli performance, but was content just to act as mediator between the sides.

The Israeli team continued to prevaricate and maneuver until the end of the round, and it came out of the first round without scoring the goal of peace. It is only fair to say that the U.S. negotiator, Alfred Atherton, did all he could to change the situation but the result was limited. The Israeli negotiator added a word here and deleted a word there. The outcome was that the declaration of principles did not assume any form or content because the words which Israel was trying to use in the various versions were only aimed at accommodating the Israeli strategic objective in the area. Israel has not budged from its stand ever since Egypt started besieging it with the peace initiative.

Before he left Cairo at the end of the round, Atherton tried to give the impression that his mission had achieved something and that it had been possible to narrow the gap between some of the versions in the declaration of principles. It was natural that Atherton should do this because the United States is determined to continue playing a positive role; otherwise President Carter would have not appointed Atherton as a permanent envoy in the Middle East for this particular mission.

It was natural that Atherton should give the impression that the thread had not been broken and that the next important step would be the Washington meeting between Carter and Begin.

However, the facts affirmed by U.S. official sources are that the differences are still sharp not only between Egypt and Israel but also between America and Israel. These sources defined these differences as being over the basis and essence of the problem-- that is, the Palestinian issue, the settlements and the withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza.

AL-AKHBAR CRITICIZES ATTITUDE OF BEGIN

NC090900Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 March--The newspaper Al-AKHBAR today comments on the Israeli prime minister's hard line represented by his refusal to withdraw from the occupied territories and his threat to clash with Washington. The paper says that Begin has shown his true image to the whole world. When the time came for him to define principles, he was compelled to completely reveal his true nature. He changed his attitude and declared that he refused to accept the interpretation that Resolution 242 meant withdrawal from the West Bank.

The image that has now been revealed represents the same Begin who at one time acted a part, appealing to President as-Sadat to meet with him to establish peace. O Begin, what kind of peace is this, when you are putting every obstacle in the way of peace, when you want the Arab territories as well as peace with the Arabs, knowing that this is impossible? The entire world has condemned you for putting obstacles in the way of peace. Even some of your ministers in Israel have declared that your attitude will not achieve peace. Today we add that in the true form in which you have appeared, we do not believe peace can possibly be established unless the views you have declared are radically changed.

The newspaper emphasizes that there will be no peace unless Israel withdraws from all the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, not only from the West Bank, and recognizes self-determination for the Palestinian people--that is, if it truly wants peace, does not maneuver and does not forget tomorrow what it says today. The paper emphasizes that we will regain our territories either peacefully or through war. You cannot impose a fait accompli whatever you do.

ROMANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC081253Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 March--Romanian Defense Minister Col Gen Ion Coman and a military delegation arrived in Cairo today for a visit of several days at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and War and War Production Minister Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi, who received him at the airport. The visit falls within the framework of cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Al-Jamasi Hosts Minister

NC082130Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 March--Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi has affirmed that Egypt will provide every opportunity for the success of the current efforts to achieve a just peace in the area.

He said that if these efforts fail, a new and serious situation would arise which would not be in the interests of the peoples in the area or in the interests of world peace, which all peoples want. This came in a speech General Muhammad al-Jamasi delivered at a banquet which he hosted tonight in honor of the Romanian national defense minister, ColGen Ion Coman, at the Armed Forces Officers Club in Heliopolis. The chief of staff of the armed forces, LtGen Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi, and the Romanian ambassador in Cairo attended the banquet.

The following is the text of Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi's speech:

Dear friend Gen Ion Coman: In the name of members of the armed forces and the war production industries, it gives us pleasure to welcome you in Egypt today. Egypt has the closest and strongest relations with the Socialist Republic of Romania. President Nicolae Ceausescu and President Anwar as-Sadat have consolidated these relations.

Your visit to Egypt comes at a stage of the Arab-Israeli conflict which comes in the wake of President as-Sadat's initiative and his historic visit to Egypt. This initiative has become a prominent landmark in the history of this conflict. It has had and continues to have the deepest effect at the domestic, Arab and international levels.

We will most sincerely provide every opportunity for the success of the current efforts to achieve a just peace in the area. I also say with all sincerity that if the peace efforts fail, then a new and serious situation would arise in the area and that this situation would not be in the interests of the people in the area or in the interests of world peace which all peoples want.

We will resort to all possible methods to achieve a just peace. By virtue of its historic responsibility, capacities and strategic position, Egypt will continue to make sacrifices as it sacrificed thousands of its youth and billions of pounds for the sake of this cause. In this regard, we record with much pride the leading and constructive role the Socialist Republic of Romania and President Nicolae Ceausescu himself are playing to achieve peace and security in this area.

As you know, right and peace must be backed by military power. Because Israel has become like a military arsenal in the heart of the Arab homeland, it is taking a hard line in the current negotiations. It also has plans to secure additional sophisticated weapons and plans for increased war production during the coming years. Therefore, it has become necessary to have a balance of power in the area to consolidate peace.

Consequently, we believe that maintaining our Egyptian armed forces in a state of preparedness and strength is the real guarantee for achieving security and establishing peace. We shall spare no effort to achieve this aim. However this will cost us of effort, manpower and money.

In this sphere, also, the cooperation between the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Arab Republic of Egypt in the military sphere must expand for the benefit of the armed forces of the two countries.

In concluding my speech I would like to express to you our pleasure at meeting you and the delegation accompanying you on this visit, which will undoubtedly strengthen the friendship between our two countries and our two armed forces.

Permit me, friends, to drink a toast to the health of our honorable guest and the members of his delegation and as an expression of the friendship between the Romanian and Egyptian peoples and the armed forces in the two countries and as an expression of respect and appreciation for President Nicolae Ceausescu. Thank you.

SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES CAIRO FOR HOME

NC081046Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 March--Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Jama Barre left for home this morning at the end of a 3-day visit to Cairo.

GOALS OF NEW LEFTIST OPPOSITION PARTY EXPLAINED

LD070042Y Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 1 Mar 78 p 6 LD

[Article by Dr Yahya al-Jamal, member of the Presidium of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping: "Our Party"]

[Text] Our party [the National Progressive Unionist Grouping] is a unique and unprecedented experiment in the Arab homeland and probably in the Third World.

It is not a party in the conventional sense of the term in which all the party members agree on a single basic theory because our party embodies several ideological trends and thoughts that encompass almost all leftist factions.

Also, our party is not a front of parties, each with its own identity, program, means and objectives, but which transiently meet in order to achieve a particular objective, after which the front comes to an end and becomes irrelevant.

Our party is neither of these but our party, as its name implies, is a "grouping" of various forces and factions that all stand on a single common political ground--although each has a different theory--and aim at the same political objectives which, briefly put, are a rejection of exploitation, oppression and division and work for progress, freedom and unity.

This is our party. It is the party of the 23 July Revolution and, therefore, it is the party of Nasirites--all Nasirites, both those who have joined it and those who prefer to wait before doing so.

Our party deeply believes in the cause of Arab unity and believes that the present division in the Arab homeland is one that has been imposed on the Arab people contrary to their interests. Therefore, such division must be rejected by the Arab people for the sake of their interests.

Our party is the party of the enlightened ones who see in the heavenly messages a driving power toward progress and elimination of the yoke of exploitation and enslavement. Therefore, its members see religion as the pure source that provides man with a deeper and wider relationship with the universe, its creator and with man everywhere.

Our party is not a Marxist party, but it does not close its mind to Marxism; also, it does not close its mind to all past and present experiments. The Marxist form a faction of our party from which the party draws support. The party considers their struggle an asset to it.

Our party embodies all these and therefore it is a "grouping" of all of them.

Consequently, our party has a right to say that it expresses the aspirations of the broad masses and is their defender in the face of any injustice or attack against their real and legitimate interests.

It was once said that our party emerged under the aegis of the authorities, but the authorities have refuted this claim by their incessant attacks on it and by their endless allegations against our party, its struggling rank and file, and its loyal leadership. Time has proved that ours is the only party that has led an objective opposition in all matters of destiny. In doing so its methods have been constructive and calm criticism free of abuse and nonsense.

This is our party that, through the rich interaction between all its factions and political trends, tries to present to the Arab homeland and the Third World a new experiment originating from a soil suitable for its objective conditions, linked to its cultural heritage, and responding to the needs of its masses.

We, with God's will and the determination of our masses, shall do so.

LEFTIST PARTY ELECTS PRESIDIUM, LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

LD061544Y Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 1 Mar 78 p 6 LD

[Excerpts] The first constituent conference of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party concluded its work last Friday in Cairo by electing the party leadership committee. The committee consists of 56 members (29 workers and 27 of other factions). Dr Muhammad Khalaf Allah, the party rapporteur in Cairo, opened the conference with a brief welcoming speech to his colleague delegates at the conference. He then proposed the agenda, which was approved by the conference.

The conference then elected 15 members to the Presidium; the Presidium now includes: Abu Sayf Yusuf, Adib Dimitri, Isma'il Sabri 'Abdallah, Ramzi Ibrahim Fayyad, 'Abd al-'Azim Mughrabi, Qabbari 'Abdallah, Lutfi al-Khuli, Rida Muharram, Milad Habba, Yusri Bayyumi, Yahya al-Jamal, and Hamza al-'adawi.

Husayn 'Abd ar-Razzaq, the Cairo party secretary, then submitted the political and organizational program. He referred to the difficulties which have had to be faced in building the party--foremost of which is "the lack of democracy in Egypt despite the resounding slogans about democracy and the rule of law." He also discussed the persecution and harassment of party members by the police before and after the 18 and 19 January incidents.

The Cairo party secretary pointed to a significant phenomenon, namely, that these "police measures have not weakened the militancy of the colleagues but, on the contrary, enhanced their fortitude, courage, and strength."

The report also contained self-criticism of the Cairo party Secretariat's past organizational practices. The report pointed to shortcomings resulting from the sudden expansion in the party membership and the erroneous attempt by members to be present at all the branches and units simultaneously. Criticism was also leveled at the errors inherited from the ASU experiment and the consequent weakening of the contacts system and the delay in the formation of the structural organizations.

This was followed by a report by Dr Samir Fayyad, the Cairo assistant secretary, regarding the observations of the Cairo branch on the party's draft political program. He pointed to the differing views of what the party's activities should be in its present stage of development. The majority want a nationalist, democratic, and unconventional revolution as well as the consolidation of the already completed socialist changes. The minority want a socialist revolution.

The report said that the observations of most of the party members regarding the party program dealt with the chapter on the national cause. The members asked that the chapter from the party statement issued following President As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem be included in the program. That chapter says: "This step completes the policy of making concessions and paying in advance which has achieved no positive results in the past years. It represents sacrificing military capability through allowing the deterioration of the Egyptian-Soviet relations and strikes at our economic potential by subjecting the Egyptian economy to the domination of foreign capital. This is done under slogans of openness as well as by accepting Israel's demands for rebuilding the canal cities, opening the canal for Israeli shipping, setting up an American early warning system in Sinai, allowing trade with blacklisted U.S. companies, and standing idle during the aggression against southern Lebanon."

The report called for the formulation of a new strategy that would take into consideration the emergence of hostile trends against the Arabs and Palestinians which are being fostered by specific social factions and media organs.

After a lengthy discussion, the conference agreed that the Cairo leadership committee should continue the dialog on the draft program in the various branches and units preparatory to submitting it to the Party General Congress.

AL-AHALI ACCUSES CIA OF INSTIGATING SABOTAGE

JN081108Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 8 March--The National Unionist Progressive Grouping has revealed that agents of the U.S. CIA and parasite capitalism were behind the sabotage operations which occurred during the popular uprising in Egypt on 18 and 19 January 1977.

The party organ, AL-AHALI, said: Our people know the full truth. They expressed themselves and participated in the uprising in protest against the government's policy and economic measures raising commodity prices.

AL-AHALI added that the violence the security authorities used against the masses paved the way for the intelligence elements and the agents of parasite capitalism to carry out the sabotage operations so that the progressive and patriotic forces would be accused of these operations. This would be used as an excuse to liquidate them.

MINISTER CALLS FOR NEW PRICING SYSTEM FOR OPEC OIL

JN082035Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1932 GMT 8 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 8 March--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and oil minister, has affirmed that the problem of the drop in the dollar value can only be solved by replacing the current system of pricing OPEC oil in U.S. dollars.

Speaking to INA today, Minister 'Abd al-Karim said that Iraq will support any solution to this subject guaranteeing the purchasing power of the oil revenues, whether this solution is called special drawing rights, or [words indistinct], or any other accounting unit.

'Abd al-Karim added that Iraq stresses the need to find such a replacement immediately and warmly supports the holding of an extraordinary session of the OPEC ministers to discuss this subject in a serious and effective manner to adopt an appropriate decision.

Tayih 'Abd al-Karim said that the only truth in the face of the falling dollar is that the main losers in this whole operation are the OPEC countries, not the United States or the industrial states.

The minister said that the loss in this operation is twofold: On the one hand, the purchasing power of the OPEC oil revenues has gone down by 10 percent because of the drop in the dollar, and, on the other, the cost of OPEC's imports of commodities and services from the industrial states has gone up by no less than 20 percent at the same time.

Minister 'Abd al-Karim explained that the industrial states whose currencies have risen against the dollar have made big gains through the drop in the cost of their OPEC oil imports, which are priced in dollars. Furthermore, the prices of their exports to the OPEC countries have also gone up.

The Iraqi minister called on OPEC to take adequate measures to protect the purchasing power of its oil revenues as a basic and legitimate right. He said that the dangerous circumstances through which the organization is passing because of the open challenge by the capitalist industrial states, headed by the United States, call for the adoption of such measures.

'Abd al-Karim added that the drop in the dollar value from December 1976 to January 1978 amounted to more than 10 percent against the other main currencies and caused the OPEC member states a loss amounting to no less than \$15 billion. Tayih 'Abd al-Karim described this as the biggest challenge which the organization must face immediately with all the means in its power.

'Abd al-Karim said that the industrial states are already using the drop in the dollar value as a means to reduce the real price of OPEC oil in world markets and are threatening the OPEC states to always use this means to prevent an increase in oil prices.

The Iraqi minister said: It is essential to point out here that the deterioration of the dollar was not due to U.S. oil imports and the increase in oil prices, as U.S. political and media circles claim. The truth is the complete opposite of this claim. Due to the increase in imports, the actual prices of oil are almost the same as they were in 1973.

The minister said that the U.S. economy has benefited from OPEC oil imports and what it earns from the enormous OPEC deposits and investments in the United States. All these are geared to servicing the U.S. economy.

'Abd al-Karim said that the drop in the dollar value resulted from U.S. wishes and interests, as stated by the U.S. treasury secretary last June when he announced that the drop in the dollar value was essential to achieve equilibrium in the balance of trade. The minister said that the real gross national product in the United States went up by 4.9 percent in 1977 compared with only 2 percent in the countries of the Organization of the European Cooperation and Development.

The oil minister said that a temporary solution of the dollar problem cannot make us forget the main problem of the OPEC member states; namely, the imported inflation which is eroding a large part of the purchasing power of the oil revenues to the extent that the real price, or purchasing power, has now become \$4.85 to the barrel compared with the current official price of \$8.70. This is because the price of commodities imported by the OPEC countries has gone up by 160 percent from the beginning of 1974 until the end of 1977.

The minister explained that this phenomenon can only be solved now through radical solutions, such as programming production so as to maintain an accurate balance between supply and demand for crude oil in world markets and in this way preserve the price structure and also give the oil a real price reflecting its strategic value in comparison with other alternative sources of energy.

Minister 'Abd al-Karim said that despite the fact that most countries in the area reduced their production in the past 2 months, compared with the rate of production during the last month of 1977, as a means of absorbing the surplus and protecting the general price structure, OPEC's gross production last January went down to 29 million barrels daily compared with 32.5 million daily in December 1977 [as received].

However, the minister added, these measures were unilateral. They lacked the coordination and collective action to make them more effective, less harmful to the member states and more conducive to strengthening the unity of the organization and the solidarity of its members.

Minister 'Abd al-Karim reiterated the call for programming production as an important means to protect the organization's legitimate interests and block the way before its enemies, who are dreaming of going back to the pre-1973 prices by exploiting the current market conditions and the harmful competition which might result from the imbalance in the actual supply and demand for oil in world markets.

The minister affirmed that the plans and conspiracies of the international energy agency led by the United States cannot be confronted and foiled by individual efforts. It behooves the OPEC member states to stand in one solid rank to confront these plans and conspiracies with full force in accordance with a well-studied scientific program.

NEWSPAPER ASSAILS EGYPT'S ACTIONS AGAINST PALESTINIANS

JN050919Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 March--Under the headline "Hostility Toward the Palestinian People Is the Other Face of Hostility Toward the Egyptian People," The newspaper TARIQ ASH-SHA'B denounces the campaign of instigation and harassment unleashed by the organs of As-Sadat's regime against the Palestinian Arab people residing in Egypt.

The paper, organ of the Iraqi Communist Party, says: It is no coincidence that the campaign of hostility and harassment against the Palestinians coincides with the opening of Egypt's doors to all Zionists, beginning with rabbis and military men and ending with journalists.

TARIQ ASH-SHA'B adds: The campaign of slander and abuses, the terror unleashed by the As-Sadat regime against the Palestinian Arab people and the threats by this regime to abrogate all rights enjoyed by the Palestinian Arab people residing in Egypt coincide with the current endeavors to resume the shameful settlement talks between As-Sadat's regime and the Zionist enemy. The aim of the campaign against the Palestinians is to overcome one of the obstacles to the resumption of these talks; namely, the question of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

TARIQ ASH-SHA'B continues: The Arab masses in Egypt and their armed forces realize that the campaign against the Palestinian people is actually aimed at covering up the relinquishment of the national rights of the Arab people in Egypt and the Palestinian cause. Furthermore, despite the gestures of hostility which As-Sadat is making against the Palestinian cause, the enemy is increasing its insistence on following an aggressive policy and is expanding its settlements in the occupied Arab areas, including our Arab land in Egypt.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI REPORTS ON RESENTMENT IN SYRIAN ARMY

JN061650Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Paris--The magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, which is published in Paris, has reported that a wave of resentment is sweeping the ranks of the Syrian Arab Army and that the Damascus regime has carried out large-scale transfers at various levels within the Syrian Arab Army in an attempt to stop this wave of resentment.

The magazine says that the resentment has been caused by the increasing number of casualties among the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon under the guise of the Arab deterrent forces. The magazine also says that the continuous contacts between the Damascus regime and the Lebanese rightist front, which is allied with the Zionist enemy, are opposed by various circles.

CPSU DELEGATION CONCLUDES 1-WEEK VISIT TO IRAQ

JN041535Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 4 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 March--The delegation of CPSU cadres led by Aleksandr Platonovich Botvin, CPSU Central Committee member and first secretary of the Kiev party committee, left Baghdad today after a 1-week visit to Iraq. During the visit the delegation met with Ba'ath Party officials and discussed the exchange of expertise in party work.

BA'ATH PARTY OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR VISIT TO LIBYA

JN070734Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 7 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 7 March--Na'im Haddad, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party National Command and member of the general secretariat of the Arab popular conference, left for Tripoli today leading a delegation to participate in the meetings of the conference of the general secretariat which begin today.

In a statement to INA, Haddad said that during the meetings the conferees will complete their discussions on Anwar as-Sadat's trial for his crimes against the Arab nation. They will also set a date and a venue for the trial. The conference will also deal with the developments in the situation in the Arab arena.

AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH HUSAYN

JN082130Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Austrian President Dr Rudolf Kirchschlaeger has praised the outcome of the talks he had with His Majesty King Husayn. He described these talks as having been very cordial, frank and useful. These talks will build a bridge of mutual (?cooperation) between Jordan and Austria.

Speaking to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY before leaving Amman today for home, Dr Kirchschlaeger said: Austria supports UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. We have tried within the framework of the United Nations to contribute to the efforts to reach a common interpretation of these two resolutions. But this has not been possible so far. The Austrian president asserted that his country supports the UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian question and the rights of the Palestinian people. He said that the Austrian Government and all departments speaking in the name of Austria have expressed their readiness to contribute as much as they can toward achieving a peaceful settlement based on justice in the region.

HUSAYN CONGRATULATES AL-ASAD ON ANNIVERSARY

JN081735Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Mar 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent the following cable of congratulations to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the occasion marking the anniversary of the 8 March Revolution:

His Excellency brother Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, may God protect you: On the occasion of the 8 March Revolution, it gives me great pleasure to send you and the fraternal Syrian people in my name, the name of my people and that of the Jordanian Government, the warmest and fraternal congratulations and best wishes, asking almighty God to guide you and grant you success for the good of Syria and that of the Arab nation. [Signed] Your brother, Husayn

AR-RA'Y REPORTS SAUDI MOVES TO HOLD ARAB SUMMIT

JN060729Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Mar 78 pp 1, 10 JN

[Text] Sulayman an-Nimr dispatch from Riyadh--AR-RA'Y has learned that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will make intensified and large-scale diplomatic efforts in the next few days to prepare for convening an Arab summit conference in order to adopt unified stands toward the increasing Israeli intransigence.

Informed Saudi political sources told AR-RA'Y that the Saudi moves are aimed at healing the rift and restoring Arab solidarity. These sources told AR-RA'Y that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal is expected to visit a number of Arab capitals for this purpose.

These sources pointed out that the Saudi stand toward the current Arab conditions is clear. This stand is based on the need to maintain a unified Arab stand toward the Palestinian issue and to avoid differences. Saudi Arabia has stressed this stand to the Arab capitals during the visits to Riyadh by certain Arab officials who have met King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

These political sources asserted that the Saudi moves will result in convening an urgent Arab summit conference.

AD-DUSTUR Supports Summit Call

JN090628Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 9 Mar 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Yes to an Arab Summit Conference in Khartoum," AD-DUSTUR says: After taking the constitutional oath for a second term as president, President Hafiz al-Asad declared that peace can only be achieved from a position of strength and not by begging, that Palestinian people's rights are the crux of the Arab-Israeli dispute and that Arab solidarity is indispensable to the confrontation and challenges facing the Arabs.

AD-DUSTUR says: What President al-Asad said is a fact agreed upon by all the Arabs. The Arab leaders must restore solidarity among themselves and agree on a plan of unified action with which they can face the great challenge threatening the Arab nation especially because the U.S. efforts exerted up to now to persuade Israel to take the road to peace have failed.

AD-DUSTUR further says: The best evidence of this failure is Begin's boast yesterday when he said he will not consider withdrawing from the West Bank even though this may lead Israel to stand alone and face public opinion abroad. He also said Israel will not give up its settlements in the Sinai. The vast majority of the Likud have supported this extremist aggressive stand. Moreover, Alfred Atherton left the area emptyhanded on his way to Washington, although he was unable to admit this.

AD-DUSTUR says in conclusion: In view of all this, it is necessary to respond to the endeavor being made by Sudanese President Numayri to convene an Arab summit conference in Khartoum to enable the Arab leaders to assess the situation and to work together irrespective of sensitivities which have no place now, so that they may achieve an honorable and just peace even if this means returning to the principle which says what was taken by force cannot be regained except by force.

HUSAYN TO SEND LETTER TO ARAB HEADS OF STATE

JN021945Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Doha press sources said today that Jordan's King Husayn will send letters to Arab heads of state after his return from his current visit to Britain. The Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB said that the letters will deal with developments in the region and the question of Jordan's participation in the talks on a settlement or capitulation with the Zionist enemy.

GOVERNMENT BANS ENTRY OF BAGHDAD MAGAZINE

JN051532Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Mar 78 p 2 JN

[Text] Amman--JNA--The director of the Press and Publications Bureau--the general censor of publications--has banned the entry and sale of the magazine AL-MIZMAR in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This magazine is published and printed in Baghdad.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO LUXEMBOURG--Luxembourg, 28 February--Ibrahim 'Izz ad-Din, Jordanian ambassador in Bonn, presented his credentials today to Grand Duke Jean as Jordan's nonresident ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. [Amman JNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Feb 78 JN]

LEBANESE FRONT ISSUES STATEMENT AT PRESS CONFERENCE

NC081500Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] A meeting was held at noon today at Phalangist Party headquarters attended by former President Camille Sham'un; Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil; Edward Hunayn; chief editor of Al-'AMAL Joseph Abu Khalil; and the director general of the Voice of Lebanon, Joseph al-Hashim. The conferees reviewed the statement issued by the Lebanese front. The statement was released at a press conference at noon today at Phalangist headquarters. Secretary general of the front Edward Hunayn read the text of the statement as follows [begin recording]:

The Lebanese front has noted the resolutions of the six-sided summit conference held in Riyadh 16-18 October 1976. In view of these resolutions, the Lebanese front wishes to remind those concerned that:

1. The aim agreed upon by the conferees at the Riyadh and Cairo summits--to provide the necessary guarantees for the restoration of normal life in Lebanon and for the preservation of Lebanon's establishments and sovereignty--has not yet been achieved.
2. The procrastination in achieving this aim is mainly the fault of the Arab sides.
3. A total of 1 year, 4 months and 20 days has elapsed since the Riyadh conference but its resolutions have not yet been implemented, particularly the Cairo Agreement.
4. There has been inadequate coordination between those who adopted the resolutions in Riyadh and those responsible for implementing these resolutions.
5. Some states which took part in the Cairo summit are continuing to send equipment and men to the south. This is threatening security, stability and sovereignty.

In view of this and whereas the front is determined to deliver Lebanon from its present ordeal; whereas the front fears that the delay in implmenting these resolutions amounts to the conferees giving up on their implementation; whereas we are committed to respond to the will of the Lebanese in all matters affecting their fate, the front, which is pleased to acknowledge once again the usefulness of the positive Syrian initiative, believes that the persistent attempts to obstruct the implementation of the Riyadh-Cairo resolutions and the delay in implementing or abandoning these resolutions might lead to serious implications and consequences, making it incumbent upon the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon to confront these in accordance with the resolutions of the Riyadh-Cairo conference. [end recording]

Praises Syria

JN081910Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 8 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 March--The front of the Lebanese Nationalist and National parties and forces has hailed the Glorious 8 March Revolution its 15th anniversary, reaffirming the continuation of the struggle until all the Arab nation's goals for liberation, progress and unity are achieved. In a statement on the occasion of the anniversary of the 8 March Revolution, the front called on all the national and nationalist forces in the Arab area, particularly those in Lebanon, to mobilize their potential to support Syria's steadfastness, as it is the nucleus of an eastern front fighting against the Zionist enemy. This front is formed by a Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian alliance against the Zionist enemy and his conspiracies.

The front criticized attempts in the Arab area aimed at dealing a blow to Syrian steadfastness, which is opposing the defeatist policies and the Israeli peace project. Such attempts are being made in Lebanon by disrupting the security situation and obstructing the process of national reconciliation. The front also called on these forces to oppose these attempts and to foil them.

The front praised Arab Syria's achievements during the 8 March Revolution era, particularly achievements realized on the national level by the corrective movement, especially the October 1973 war and Syria's fraternal initiative to save Lebanon from Zionist-colonialist sedition and its heroic steadfastness in the face of the Israeli peace project and the defeatist policies in the region. The front stressed that the corrective movement under President al-Asad had succeeded, through its pure Arabism, in restoring to Syria its national and leading role as a bastion of liberation, struggling for the protection of the nation's independence and acting as a major opposing force against the Zionist enemy.

FATAH LEADER KILLED, OTHERS INJURED IN CLASH

NC080751Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At 2000 yesterday Abu Sa'id, a leader of revolutionary Fatah--the corrective movement, was traveling in his private car on the road from Al-Biq'a' to Beirut accompanied by Walid Shayya. When the car arrived at Dahr al-Baydar in al-Biq'a', a hail of bullets was fired at it from a civilian car carrying Abu al-Hawl, a leader of the Fatah organization--Yasir 'Arafat's wing. An exchange of fire ensued between the two cars. Walid Shayya was killed instantly. Abu Sa'id was hit in the head by shrapnel and in the back by a bullet. A Syrian soldier, Isma'il Haddad, was also injured. Abu al-Hawl then fled in the direction of Beirut.

Shayya, Abu Sa'id and Isma'il were taken to the Tall Shiha and Ablah hospitals and deterrent forces surrounded the hospitals. Some Palestinian organizations in Al-Biq'a', which Abu Sa'id heads, were alerted. A group of these Palestinians then went to Beirut.

The details as sent to us by our representative in Al-Biq'a': A sport Fiat-124 bearing license number 136136 was traveling to Dahr al-Baydar. In it were Col 'Ali Salim Ahmad, a 43-year old Palestinian whose alias is Abu Sa'id; Muhammad Hasan al-Khatib and Khalil Jawhar, both of whom are Palestinians, Walid Shayya, a Lebanese from Sawfar; and a 35-year old Syrian soldier named Isma'il Haddad. When the car arrived in Dahr al-Baydar, it was ambushed from a black Fiat driven by Hawari of the Fatah organization. Three men armed with machineguns who were in the car, including Abu al-Hawl, opened fire on the other car. Walid Shayya was killed instantly, Abu Sa'id received head and back injuries and soldier Isma'il Haddad was injured.

The dead man and the two injured persons were removed to Tall Shiha hospital and the military hospital in Ablah. Palestinians on Barr Ilyas Road in Al-Biq'a' were alerted. Revolutionary Fatah--the corrective movement distributed a statement warning that it will wreak vengeance within 24 hours.

Wounded Die

NC090742Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Text] It was reported during the night that Salim Ahmad, alias Abu Sa'id, and Hasan al-Khatib and Walid Shayya have all died. Walid Shayya, a Lebanese citizen from Sawfar, was killed instantly when fire was opened at Abu Sa'id's car in Dahr al-Baydar. The two others died in the Tall Shiha hospital.

Additional Clash Reported

NC081358Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon military correspondent in the south reports that at 0630 today a clash took place at Abu al-Aswad Bridge in Tyre between three vehicles occupied by armed Palestinians.

The details of the incident are that a yellow Volvo was chased by a blue Fiat 132 and a Peugeot, the armed occupants of which opened fire, wounding four armed men in the Volvo. The driver of the Volvo kept driving until the car overturned, 3 km from Tyre. It has been learned that the car belonged to the Fatah. Four armed men were found killed inside the Volvo.

It has been reported from Al-Biq'a that Abu Sa'id of the revolutionary Fatah died in Tall Shiha Hospital after being wounded with three colleagues in an armed ambush in Dahr al-Baydar last night. One of his colleagues, Walid Shayya, was killed and another was wounded in the ambush.

LARGE-SCALE TRANSFERS IN ARMY REPORTED

NC091015Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 9 March--The Lebanese newspaper LE REVEIL says today that a plan for large-scale transfers in the Lebanese Army affecting some 60 officers has been drawn up and will be implemented on 15 March.

LE REVEIL, which is published in French, says the plan contains a number of appointments as follows:

Col Emile Kalas has been appointed commander of Jabal Lubnan province.

Col Amin Nasr ad-Din has been appointed commander of the northern province.

Col Michel Salim has been appointed the new commander of Al-Fayyadiyah barracks, around which clashes broke out last month. He replaces the former commander of the barracks, Antoine Barakat.

Col Roger Ghali has been appointed commander of Sarbah barracks. He replaces Col Antoine Lahd, who together with Colonel Barakat has been placed at the disposal of the defense minister.

Informed sources have said that the new transfers are aimed at removing some of the officers who participated in the 2-year war and placing them at the disposal of the defense minister as part of the Army reorganization plan.

EGYPTIAN PAPERS: TWO LEBANESE OFFICERS EXECUTED

NC070711Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0623 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 March--Cairo newspapers devote much space on their front pages to developments in Lebanon. They highlight the report on the execution of two Lebanese Army officers under pressure from the Syrian Ba'ath Party. The papers point out that Syria has reinforced its forces in Lebanon to control the situation there following the violent clashes between the disputing factions.

AL-ASAD DELIVERS SPEECH AT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

JN081635Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1550 GMT 8 Mar 78 JN

[Text of speech by President Hafiz al-Asad at the People's Assembly following his constitutional oath as president for a second term--live]

[Text] The speaker of the People's Assembly, the members of the People's Assembly, gentlemen: We recall with gratitude and pleasure that the march of our country has successfully passed an important phase and is entering a new phase. We earnestly hope that we will surpass our achievements of the previous phase. Just as the political progress of a country shows its progress and strength, we can also say with assurance that our social, economic and cultural achievements, which form the basis of our political development, made satisfactory progress during the previous phase. This progress increases our confidence that we will achieve further progress in all fields of our development.

This celebration of the 8 March Revolution anniversary is the most significant celebration of the past 15 years because we are bidding goodbye to an eventful and serious year in the age of the revolution. We are not only embarking on a new year but also beginning a new period in which we will carry out further what we have constructed in the past 7 years. I would like to add that the period after 16 November 1970--which is half the age of the revolution--has more than one significant meaning in Syrian life. The most important characteristic of this period has been the political stability which has enabled us to strengthen the march of the March Revolution and to achieve important victories in various fields. We achieved our great victory during the October and the Golan wars and also made great progress in the economic, cultural and social fields.

This stability, which we have enjoyed and which we will always strengthen, has its rules and bases. There is no stability in a country in which the people are not unanimously agreed on the methods and rules of their government and in which positive interaction between the people and the government is not possible. Naturally, stability means the availability of the basis for development and progress, which is the firm springboard of our progressive movement. Therefore, stability shows the continued positive interaction between the people and the government and motivates the effective steps in development and progress. Stability has provided new momentum for the revolution and has enabled our country to achieve its goals during the years since 16 November 1970.

With stability there has been clear vision and determination to reach our goals. This clear vision has manifested itself in all our internal, Arab and international activities and has gained for Syria a lofty place and high esteem among its sister states and in the whole world.

We have always pursued the course of truth whatever the difficulties. We have always safeguarded the dignity of the homeland and the nation, whatever the price. At every step we have been careful to be guided by the people's feelings and wishes because they are the true guides. He who is guided by the people's feelings and wishes will not lose his way. As a result of this we have maintained mutual confidence between the leadership and the masses. We have strengthened this confidence as required in times of great events and situations. This confidence has been the basis for every decision or stand we have adopted.

People's Assembly members, I thank you for nominating me unanimously for the second term of office. I am indebted to the sons of my homeland for the precious confidence they have placed in me and for the genuine feelings they filled me with during the referendum. I am very proud of this nomination and of the people's confidence. I feel **sure** that the emotions demonstrated by our people in various ways affirm that the previous stage was sound. At the same time they give an indication of action for the forthcoming state.

The overflowing emotions the citizens have hastened to demonstrate have much significance. They express the splendid and popular concept of national unity which characterized the past 7 years. These emotions have been expressed practically and strongly whenever our country has been subjected to crisis or defiance. These emotions demonstrate adherence to the general ideas and laws we have upheld since 16 November [the corrective movement--]. They express realization of the importance of political stability and its effect on every aspect of our lives. These emotions stress the course of steadfastness as the only road to peace based on justice. They emphasize that peace must be taken and not begged for. These emotions demonstrate adherence to **an independent national will**. They also stress the need to continue to work to consolidate freedom in the country and insure the components of freedom.

These emotions affirm that the spirit of fraternity and harmony among the various sectors of the people is capable of facing the problems we encounter and thus of making progress and strengthening us. They are an affirmation of the continuation of building the country politically, culturally, economically and militarily. These emotions demonstrate determination to make sacrifices for building strong foundations for a free, decent, national and pan-Arab life.

The popular referendum of 8 February emphasized all of this, and on its basis our future course will be defined, and the ways of strengthening it will be made clear. The first step on this course is to continue work to strengthen our national unity, which was and will always be our main prop and strongest weapon. With national unity we will face all defiance and surmount all obstacles.

Thus in the forthcoming stage we must seek ways to consolidate national unity and make it more effective by organizing it. Our work in the future will aim at achieving a new developed formula for our national front in order to involve the greatest number of the masses. This has been our clear aim since the occurrence of the corrective movement. It was outlined in the preamble of the permanent constitution approved by the people.

The ratification of a new formula for the Progressive National Front in which the largest number of citizens can participate will further consolidate national unity, enhance its efficacy and strengthen the role of the Progressive National Front in leading political and mass action in the country. At any rate, such a formula, which we will discuss, should be submitted at a later suitable time for popular discussion.

The second step on this road is strengthening the role of popular organizations and continuing their development with the aim of enabling every citizen to find a way to belong to a popular organization or a professional union. The popular organizations play a major role in our lives. They are the suitable and sound framework for organizing the sectors of the people, defending their interests, regulating their contribution to the building of the country, raising the standard of the groups which belong to them and educating their members in the professional, unionist, national and pan-Arab fields.

We have seen how, in the past years, our popular organizations were tangibly active in this direction, positively and responsibly contributing to the building of the economic base consolidating the bases of national unity, encouraging cooperative action and contributing their share to the pan-Arab struggle. [applause]

Third, just as the establishment of the popular organizations is part of the popular democratic practice, the establishment of the local administration institutions is another part of it. We have made satisfactory strides in this direction but these strides need to be deepened and developed. We will focus our attention on deepening these strides and moving to others in the domain of local administration, in accordance with the constant maturing of this experience in order to attain--with the help of well-balanced and studied action--the desired form of local administration. This local administration is one of the major aims of our people and party and an end we are seeking in our endeavours to build a modern state, out of our concern to facilitate the affairs of citizens in their areas and out of our determination to widen the scope of popular participation in responsibility and the affairs of state.

In our endeavors to build a modern state, we should seriously work to rid the state's departments of bureaucracy, which constitutes a restriction limiting the efficiency of these departments. This requires simplification and modernization of working methods in order to facilitate the service of public interests and enable the state organs to avoid falling into the dangerous whirlpool of negligence and indifference.

Fourth, the economic, social and cultural aspects of development are a persistent national requirement. Development should continue and accelerate. The needs of the public are increasing. Life is not merciful to those who lag behind. We cannot meet and fulfill the increasing needs of the public and catch up with the developments of the age without development. Furthermore, defending the homeland, standing fast in the face of enemies and scoring victory in the battles of liberation require development in all fields. This makes it incumbent upon us to give development all the attention it needs in planning and implementation. We should make each development plan a basis for a more ambitious plan. We want to compensate for what we were unable to accomplish in the past and transform our country into a prosperous state ranking among developed countries.

Our country's abundant wealth and capabilities and our hard-working and active people help us in accomplishing this feat. We should double our efforts and provide what is needed to exploit these riches and place them at the service of our national and pan-Arab objectives.

Our economic policy in the coming stage will proceed from the following:

1. Continuing our past economic course and working to remove the negative factors which have appeared and which have been the reason this course has not achieved all its objectives and fulfilled all its expectations;
2. Deepening and expanding the role of the public sector in leading the national economy, and continuing to review its laws and statutes so as to free it from routine, increasing the authority of its immediate leaderships, improving the efficiency and abilities of these leaderships, and tackling all the negative phenomena which emerge during practice; [applause]

3. Encouraging the private sector [applause] and working to remove the obstacles which in the past prevented it from assuming its assigned role in the various economic fields, finding the various methods through which this sector can pursue its tasks, guaranteeing the private funds invested in the construction of the national economy, protecting these funds from risks and guaranteeing acceptable dividends for them, and not interfering with the legal gains and possessions of any citizen;

4. Establishing a joint sector between the public and the private sectors and creating the methods, incentives and formulas to guarantee the increase of the private funds invested in the various economic sectors;

5. Emphasizing the following principles in drawing up our annual and 5-year plans:

A. The exemplary exploitation of our existing economic projects, and putting serious efforts into transforming our investments into new projects and projects which are being planned into production investment as soon as possible.

B. The achievement of speedy and wide-scale development of crops and livestock in the agricultural sector. The development of the countryside must be considered the main task of our economic and social plans.

C. Exploring natural resources and exploiting whatever scientific research proves to be economically feasible.

Where I find it necessary to say that the technicians, productive workers and administrators who implemented large projects in the past phase deserve the gratitude and appreciation of the country for the efforts they exerted and the responsibility they shouldered. The fact that a minority of them were careless and inefficient does not diminish their great achievements and their talented work. This minority is an exception; the majority has been up to the nation's expectations. They were hard workers, sacrificing and worthy of their responsibility.

In the private sector, as in the public sector, many citizens have exerted their utmost to build our national economy and to strengthen our innate capabilities. This has been commensurate with the state's plans and its general economic aims.

Of course, as I said [words indistinct] economic policy. [Applause] The committee entrusted with investigating illegitimate profiteering and ownership has begun its work. There have been complications with some citizens following the formation of this committee.

The committee's task is to make people account for illegitimate profiteering outside the law, not for legitimate earning within the law.

There is a public sector which is playing a major role in steering the economy of the country. There is also a private sector which plays an important and basic role. We have encouraged the private sector in the past and we will give it all guarantees. This is what we said on 16 November 1970.

There is also a mixed sector which has been in existence for some time but in which we have not taken major steps. We will try as much as possible to develop this sector.

Fifth: In the present circumstances facing our nation and in the face of the continued threats of the enemy, who is planning to usurp our Arab land, it seems that the development of our defense is a most important task in order to safeguard our nation and our security. [applause] Our armed forces are the vanguard of the nation. These forces defend our dignity and everything we cherish, and we are proud of their performance on the battlefield and of their heroism and victories. We are also proud of the standard of their training and their preparedness, which keeps them always capable of effective combat and of shouldering their tasks. Our armed forces have become highly regarded because of their increased number and advanced weaponry. Our officers and men are cultured, educated and trained and we will continue developing our armed forces in number and quality. [applause]

When we mention the armed forces we remember with esteem and pride the convoys of martyrs who watered the soil of the homeland with their pure blood, sacrificed their pure souls for the dignity of their homeland and made their martyrdom an example for better life and their sacrifice a light on the road to a better life. [applause]

Sixth, it seems necessary to stress the feeling of responsibility, or what can be called the feeling of national solidarity, and to work to develop this feeling and demonstrate it in our daily lives through good work and complete implementation of tasks. Every citizen must realize that his work and its results concern not him alone but others as well. The citizen who does not do a good job harms the interests of other citizens. Thus, the worker who works to increase and improve production in his factory is the one who feels solidarity with others. The same applies to the doctor in his clinic, the engineer in his project, the teacher in his school, the student in his classroom and every citizen in his position. This requires that every citizen not waste time but make good use of it because it will benefit him and other sons of the homeland.

I am confident that our good people want to make national solidarity a real part of their lives. The development of the feeling of responsibility, which I have repeatedly stressed, is one of the most important factors which will enable us to face the future in a sound manner, to successfully shoulder our responsibilities and tasks and to overcome the various obstacles which impede our progress.

Seventh, we must continue to develop the national and pan-Arab character of the Syrian Arab citizen and to create a generation committed to the Arab nation's aims for unity, freedom and socialism. Development of this character will further increase our realization of our identity and our future. The ability to make progress and to insure prosperity for our Arab citizens in Syria and outside it depends much on this character.

Here, I want to remind you of the importance of our spiritual values and our historical heritage, which are the basis of our behavioral and moral structure. These values and heritage show that we have room to strengthen ourselves and to develop the qualities of struggle in our personalities. We cannot belittle the importance of these values in facing life's challenges and developments and in achieving the prosperous future we aspire to. [applause]

Eight, Freedom is a great value in life. We have consistently stressed this since 16 November 1970. A free man is the one who is capable of giving. Freedom exercised by man insures mutual giving between man and life. Man gives to life and life gives to man. The more a man exercises freedom the greater are the possibilities for mutual giving. Consequently freedom enriches both man and life. Aside from the organizational measures required by life, such as laws and regulations which coordinate and organize man's efforts and activities, anything which restricts freedom impedes a part of man's resources and of life which could have contributed to enrich man and enrich life. [applause] This means that further freedom means further strength for man and life.

Thus, I said on a previous occasion that we are as free as we are strong and as strong as we are free. This requires us to continue to work to create and strengthen the atmosphere of freedom in our country and the practical formulas to insure this atmosphere.

At this point, I do not want to concern myself with talking about what we should do in this field for we achieved in the past some of what we believe was required. However, what is required is much and varied, and it might change from one time to another.

However, within this framework I would like to say now that nobody in our country will be asked about his belief or opinion as long as he practices his belief and expresses his opinion within the constitution and the law. [Applause]

In this respect, I would like to point out that although the circumstances of our conflict with the enemy--and the requirement of public security due to these circumstances--have necessitated the state of emergency, it is impermissible to use martial law except in what pertains to the security of the state as stipulated by the law. [Applause]
[Al-Asad cracks an indistinct joke about the interior minister and this is followed by laughter]

I have learned from delegations from the provinces that there have been certain cases where martial orders have been used, outside the framework I just mentioned. I am now asking the competent quarters to annul these orders, even though these quarters believe that these orders were issued for good reasons. [Applause]

In this field, I talked to the interior minister just before entering this hall and I said that if, in light of the experiment, there are certain cases not covered by the laws in effect, the competent quarters can suggest that the People's Assembly--which is the legislative authority--issue the required laws. If the People's Assembly finds convincing justifications, it will approve these laws. [Applause]

Ninth, Arab unity is a noble aim, necessary for the Arab existence in all its political, economic, cultural and defense aspects. [Applause] We have always said and we still say with sincerity that we must struggle with all our power to remove the obstacles and difficulties on the road to unity. We must not allow a less important issue to stand in the way of Arab unity. When we say that Arab unity is the basic and the natural aim for the Arab nation, we state a fact which means that no Arab regime should voice the opinion that the characteristics of the other Arab regimes are obstacles to unity. If we are correct in saying that a certain regime is more qualified to achieve unity for objective reasons, we can be even more correct in saying that a unionist regime is one which works for unity and truly achieves it. This is because Arab unity is an end, no matter what the bases or the results.

Therefore, there is no justification in tying the achievement of unity to the nature of Arab regimes. Any regime which can achieve unity is a good means for it to be achieved. The regimes which work for Arab unity and which can achieve it are unionist and identical in their conception of Arab unity, no matter how they differ among themselves in their characteristics. Those regimes which are reluctant to work for unity and to achieve it are regional regimes. They are neither unionist nor Pan-Arab, no matter what the justifications might be. The characteristics of these regimes do not change this principle.

Unity is a self-evident aim; those who work for it are unionists and those who talk about it and place obstacles on its way, under the pretext of first achieving the factors leading to unity, are wittingly or unwittingly shutting themselves in and siding with the isolationists, separatists and secessionists. When unity fails after it has been achieved, this does not show that there is something wrong with unity, and we must not despair and worry but work further and struggle to regain it.

We will continue our struggle for unity and we welcome unconditional dialog on this issue provided that it is based on the achievement of unity. [Applause] In saying this I do not direct my speech to any particular side. I only wish to voice our idea on unity.

Tenth, I must mention the struggle and the achievements of the Syrian women. We will keep talking about woman until a time comes when we will talk about man. [applause] I have, of course, spoken about these subjects to most of the delegations I received during the meetings after the referendum. In this field, I said that perhaps we will be able to change history since all throughout history woman has been asking for her rights from man. We will change history and make man struggle to receive his rights from woman. [Laughter] At any rate, I have learned that some have already begun to struggle to receive their rights. [more laughter].

I must mention the struggle and achievements of Syrian women and their helping the men in shouldering the responsibilities of life and in the regional and national struggle. As I have said before, women are a big sector of our people. They are half the people. They have always stood by the side of the men, shouldering part of their duties in the public life and bearing the harsh difficulties imposed by the social life during certain periods. I again say that our society will remain weak and our efforts for development limited unless the women take their full responsibility in life and natural position in society. Our religion, humanity, constitution and everything around us call upon us to eliminate our shortcomings and weaknesses and enable the women to play their full role in building the country and developing the society. [Applause]

Members of the People's Assembly, throughout history Syria has been the symbol of Arab struggle and dignity and the vanguard of Arab steadfastness. We are saying this out of national pride, not regionalism. Such has been the destiny of this country. Just as this country has done its duty in the past, it will continue to do this duty in the present and the future.

Syria, which is facing its destiny with courage and faith, will not abandon its duty or the nation which has placed its confidence and hope in Syria. Syria will remain loyal to this role and to the principles it has believed in. Syria hopes that those who deny its sacrifices will stop making such denials.

We will continue to make sacrifices so our nation will live. Nothing will scare us. Neither threats nor temptations will make us deviate from our path. This is how we have been throughout our history, and this is how we will continue to be. [Applause]

Our people have withstood all the pressures of the imperialist forces to impose military alliances on us. Our people have withstood all those who have wanted to punish us because of our defense of the Palestinian question. We in this country raised the Palestinian flag from the very beginning of the issue out of our sense of national commitment. This flag has continued and will continue to be raised until the Palestinian Arab people regain their complete rights. [Applause] We will continue to stress that the Palestinian people's right to their homeland is our primary concern and the objective of our struggle. We stress what we have previously said, namely, that the rights of the Palestinian Arab people should come first and our occupied territory in the Golan second. [Applause]

For the past 30 years we have safeguarded the Palestinian entity and opposed those who tried to obliterate it. We have rejected any compromise on it. And, when our brothers have said that were it not for Syria there would not have been any front of steadfastness and confrontation, they are in fact expressing their appreciation for our stand, commitment and determination to safeguard the cause and continue to raise the banner of struggle for its sake.

We fought the October war, and later the Golan war of attrition, in defense of the Palestinian question and our occupied territory. We fought honorably and courageously. Our armed forces fought well and our people put up great resistance. We did not give in during or after the war. We did not succumb to the pressures of capitulation, but resisted, are still resisting and will continue to resist until we foil all attempts to slip into the current of capitulation. We thereby preserve the honor and dignity of our nation. We will fight for the liberation of the Arab territories and the restoration of Arab rights with honor and courage. We reject all begging methods. [Applause]

Since 1970 we have been stressing Arab solidarity and its significance in confronting the occupation. We have exerted every possible effort to achieve this solidarity and to make it effective. If our enemies have succeeded in opening a gap, this will not prevent us from working for solidarity so that it will be an effective instrument in the struggle against the enemy and in foiling all attempts at capitulation and surrender.

Gentlemen, in our foreign policy we will continue to work with the nonaligned states and to develop our relations with them. We will strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation with the USSR and the other socialist bloc countries. [Applause] We will strive to develop our relations with the Islamic states and also with the African countries. We will continue the relations of cooperation and friendship with the European states and create new friendships whenever possible.

Our position will continue to be firm in support of freedom. We will support all peoples who are fighting for their freedom and independence, and back liberation movements which are fighting imperialism in all its forms, odious racism and aggression in all its forms.

Dear compatriots, on 14 March 1971 I took the constitutional oath before the People's Assembly. I explained then how I understood my post and also how I understood public support. Today, I would like to repeat what I said that day verbatim.

Your sentiments toward me during the 8 March referendum this year and the ebullient feelings you overwhelmed me with in your processions, festivities and rush to the ballot boxes cannot be described by words, because they are beyond all expression.

What you did in the referendum has increased my awareness of the enormity of the responsibility, but at the same time it has given me the ability to shoulder this responsibility. As I said, I will always be proud of your love, and I will be strong with your support. I will continue to work with you in achieving the objectives of our people and nation.

I repeat today what I said 7 years ago--that I belong to all of you. There is no difference between one citizen and another except in the extent of his love for and service to his homeland. [Applause]

Brothers and sisters, I wish it had been possible for me on the day on the referendum to meet with every one of you to shake hands and express my love and appreciation. [Applause]

I am opening my heart to everyone. I call upon you to work in the next phase, as we did in the previous phase, as one hand and one heart full of love and confidence, to make our country a model of love, equality and justice, a homeland about which its people will be proud and happy, an example for progress and prosperity and a source of strength and well-being for us and all our brothers.

The best way to end my speech is to pray to God to give me the wisdom and strength to carry out the responsibility you have placed on my shoulders to serve my homeland and nation, a responsibility which I have willingly accepted as a man who is faithful to his God, people and nation. Peace be on you.

ALGERIA

MOZAMBIQUE FOREIGN MINISTER ENDS VISIT

LD082138Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique minister of foreign affairs, left Algeria this afternoon at the end of his several-day official visit. At the airport, the Mozambican minister made a statement to reporters in which he expressed his thanks for the warm reception accorded to him. He emphasized that consultations between the two countries will proceed on a continual and effective basis.

On speaking about the situation in the African Continent, whether in its northwestern or southern part, the foreign minister of Mozambique stressed the need for the liberation of the parts still under colonialism, whether in the southern continent or in Western Sahara. In conclusion he called on all progressive forces to resist the imperialist maneuvers and foreign interference in the affairs of the African Continent.

BOUMEDIENE RECEIVES VISITING ANGOLAN MINISTER

LD052145Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 5 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] President Boumediene today received the Angolan minister of foreign affairs shortly before his departure from Algiers. His official visit to Algeria was devoted to political talks, which he said were very fruitful.

ALGERIA WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ARAB LEAGUE MEETING

LD081929Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Algeria will not take part at any level in the coming ministerial session of the Arab League scheduled to be held in Cairo on 27 March. This is in accordance with the resolutions adopted in Tripoli by the countries of the Arab front of steadfastness and confrontation. The secretary general of the Arab League has been officially informed of the Algerian decision.

LIBYA

EFFECTS OF FALL OF DOLLAR ASSAILED IN COMMENTARY

LD081520Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Because they are linked to the American dollar, presently collapsing in the world currency markets, the assets of the oil-producing states, including the Arab oil revenues, are slumping, continually losing ground. This disgraceful situation must be reviewed so as to retrieve our oil revenues, the most important and biggest material potential of our Arab nation, from servitude and exploitation by the American dollar, which survives at the expense of their value. That the Arab oil revenues--more, the revenues of all other oil-producing countries--are linked to the American dollar is illogical and in contradiction with the simplest economic norms.

The OPEC member countries had better hasten to take practical measures to save the revenues of their national resources, threatened by total collapse if not by bankruptcy owing to the (?dwindling) U.S. assets and the pressure of the sick U.S. currency.

The fall of the American dollar is no longer a manifestation of normal stock exchange fluctuations. The dollar is today gravely sick, an incurable currency the recovery of which no remedy can assure.

The devil take America and its sick dollar.

CHADIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LDO31530Y Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 3, JANA--Djime Ngakinar Mamari, vice president of the Supreme Military Council of Chad arrived here yesterday at the head of a Chadian delegation for a visit lasting several days. The Chad delegation was welcomed by Lt Col M. al-Kharrubi and the secretaries of communications and health. Also present was a representative from the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and the Chad delegate to the OAU conference.

Official Departs

LDO71932Y Tripoli JANA in English 1836 GMT 6 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 7, JANA--The deputy chairman of the Chad Military Council left Tripoli yesterday at the end of his short visit to the Jamahiriyah. He was seen off by Maj al-Khuwaylidi at-Humaydi and a number of officials.

MOROCCO

HASSAN ATTENDS MEETING ON MOROCCAN-SOVIET TIES

LD082144Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Statement issued by the Moroccan Ministry of Information on 8 March]

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers this morning. The meeting first reviewed Moroccan-Soviet relations and their immediate and future prospects on the occasion of the visit tomorrow by a Moroccan delegation led by Prime Minister Ahmed Osman to Moscow where important agreements are expected to be signed in the fields of economic and technical cooperation, the exchange of products, phosphate and fishing.

PRIME MINISTER OSMAN ARRIVES IN MOSCOW 9 MARCH

For Moscow TASS in English accounts of the 9 March Moscow arrival of Moroccan Prime Minister Ahmed Osman at the head of a government delegation, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 9 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI MAKES STATEMENT ON ARAB SUMMIT

NC081609Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has stated that he is trying to convene an Arab summit conference to remove current inter-Arab differences. He expressed hope that this conference will be held as soon as possible. The Sudanese president explained that the normalization of Sudanese-Libyan relations will not affect the strategic relationship between Sudan and Egypt.

TUNISIA

L'ACTION CITES HEDI NOUIRA ON MIDEAST ISSUES

LD081429Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 3 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Unattributed report: "Tunisia Still Abides by the Rabat Pact Defining the Political Behavior of Arab States"]

[Excerpts] The following is the text of an interview which Prime Minister Hedi Nouira granted the editor of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS and which was published in its 26 February edition.

Question: With your permission Prime Minister, I would like to turn to the Middle East problem. To be brief, I would like to know whether you think the U.S. position altered following President as-Sadat's initiative in going to Jerusalem and the consequences of his visit. If so, what line has this development taken? Do you think the Egyptian head of state's initiative will have the desired effect, in other words, withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the creation of a Palestinian state?

Answer: President as-Sadat's initiative shocked the Arab world because it was a gamble. The initiative itself had both negative and positive aspects. The negative aspects have been discussed in detail. Its positive aspect lies in the impact it made on public opinion in the West. Of course, Western public opinion will never be persuaded to see things from the Arab viewpoint, but at least this view put an end to the prevalent Western belief that everything the Arabs say is a pack of lies, whereas everything Israel says is regarded as gospel truth.

Of course, you might well say that is not enough, and you would be right. But from a psychological viewpoint, we consider this progress. Although we did not join the confrontation countries, we took part in the Rabat summit and subscribed to the pact committing Arab states on the Middle East problem and the Palestinian cause. Tunisia abides by this pact, and we think it represents a charter determining political behavior.

Our country adopted a position on this problem as early as 1965, and this provoked vehement attacks from certain Arab countries. Tunisia still maintains this position and does not intend to renounce it.

Question: Prime Minister, do you think that the Egyptian head of state's initiative will eventually produce results? In other words, will it lead to Israel evacuating occupied Arab territory and the creation of a Palestinian state?

Answer: Results have been achieved, even if they are very slight. However, the change in international opinion will have a beneficial effect only if it is accompanied by fresh unity in the Arab ranks and if Arab countries turn away from internal strife. So far we have not seen President as-Sadat make any concession on the principles and fundamental issues involved. One could perhaps accuse him of going about things in the wrong way since he approached his enemy with an offer of peace. Nevertheless, his is a reasonable viewpoint--indeed all viewpoints are reasonable--and politicians are always exposed to criticism. The fact remains that we have not noticed any concessions, still less any compromise.

Question: Prime Minister, you are renowned for your theory of economic synthesis. Although I am no expert in this field, I understand that you draw the idea of production incentive from the capitalist system and the fair distribution of wealth from the socialist system. Does your political theory reconcile capitalist and socialist forms of government? I know that you have excellent relations with the United States and that you met Chairman Kosygin in Moscow during your official visit to the Soviet Union. Moreover, when Chairman Kosygin visited Tunisia you discussed the excellent relations between your two countries. Do you have a theory of political synthesis similar to your economic theory?

Answer: Our rule in matters of policy is that any sort of excess is valueless. That is why we always adopt a moderate attitude and harmonious views. We would welcome any opportunity of reconciling contradictory views. In so doing we would be doing our duty, although we do not like boasting of our success. Praise and compliments must not go to our heads, especially since Arab solidarity is being sorely tried. That is our attitude in the political field.

FITOURI VIEWS JANUARY UNREST; LIBYA, ALGERIA

LD081601Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 4 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Unattributed report: "Mr Hedi Nouira's Government Has Shown More Concern for the Economically Underprivileged Than Any Other Government"]

[Excerpts] More than 2,000 Destourian Party members attended the information meeting which was held in Sfax yesterday under the chairmanship of Mr Mohamed Fitouri, Politburo member and foreign minister, and which was attended by Politburo Member Tijani Makni; Hedi Zghal, secretary of state for national education; Governor Aneur Ghedira; and Sadok Mezghanni, Sfax Coordination Committee general secretary.

The foreign minister stressed that the events which took place on 26 Jan 1978 confirmed the deviationist tendencies of the former Tunisian General Confederation of Labor [UGTT] leaders. He also mentioned certain government achievements in social and economic fields. Mr Hedi Nouira's government has shown more concern for the economically underprivileged sections of society than any other government," Mr Fitouri declared, going on to stress the party's use of dialog as a method of government.

Mr Fitouri then pointed out that Tunisia enjoys great confidence on the international money market and said this proves our country is able to use available economic means to obtain credit on the terms of this market, and the prestige it enjoys with international monetary organizations means that they have no hesitation in meeting Tunisian demands.

After discussing the former UGTT leaders' rejection of the social pact and their attempts to overthrow the government, Mr Fitouri said that people who clamored for dialog and democracy distrusted them in practice, and he analyzed the notions of individual and legal entities, pointing out that the UGTT is a legal entity and as such has full rights for defending the workers' interests.

However, the individuals who tried to infiltrate UGTT ranks for their personal ends will be brought to trial.

Moreover, the foreign minister stressed that officials of international trade union organizations are convinced of the deviationist actions of the former UGTT leaders.

He said that the extraordinary UGTT conference elected new leaders who are now working with the government to insure the welfare of every citizen.

Mr Fitouri referred to his recent visit to Libya and said he found President al-Qadhafi and his colleagues eager to continue valuable dialog. He said the exchange of ratification documents on the continental shelf compromise is a symbolic gesture which confirms that the two sides are determined to base their cooperation on sound and strong foundations.

The foreign minister ended by saying: "There are no difficulties between Algeria and Tunisia, and we enjoy excellent relations."

AGREEMENT REACHED WITH LIBYA ON CONTINENTAL SHELF

LD031533Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 28 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Moncef Chihi article: "A Significant Agreement"]

[Text] At the end of Mr Mohamed Fitouri's talks in Tripoli, Tunisia and the Jamahiriyah exchanged formal ratification documents with respect to a compromise agreement on the continental shelf signed by the two countries, by the terms of which a request will be addressed to the International Court of Justice in the Hague by the two countries, asking it to arbitrate in their dispute. True, this is only a procedural act, but it shows a desire for cooperation by the two fraternal countries.

It is necessary continually to develop fraternal feelings, cooperation and neighborly relations at the highest level, but Tunisian and Libyan leaders have expressed their desire to strengthen factors which are likely to impart a concrete and positive content to cooperation and work.

The exchange of the ratification documents with respect to the compromise agreement on the Gabes Gulf continental shelf is certainly an important and significant example of the Tunisian and Libyan leaders' desire to make progress and resolve any problems that may arise through sincere and constructive dialog.

This initiative is consistent both with historical trends and with their countries' desire to see the fraternal ties between them strengthened and cooperation increased with every passing day, to mutual advantage and in accordance with the spirit of Arab understanding and solidarity.

The path followed is the path of reason, since neither fraternal feelings nor cooperation can remain for long in the sphere of words or declared intentions but must in fact assume a concrete form through actions which should continually be strengthened and broadened in accordance with dynamics of progress and in a spirit of absolute understanding. This is what President Bourguiba has always wanted in order to insure that our cooperation becomes a model and an example to follow.

BRIEFS

LIBYAN TV TRANSMITTERS--Tripoli--At JANA headquarters yesterday Muhammad Abu al-Qasim az-Zuwayy, secretary of information and culture, signed a contract with the British Marconi Company for developing TV transmitters and for guaranteeing their continuous operation by importing standby transmitters for Al-Khums, Misratah, Benghazi, Al-Mari, Darnah and Tobruk. JANA has learned that the contract is worth 2,101,853,770 dirhams. [as received] The contract will be implemented within 23 months. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD]

YADIN PLEDGES PROTECTION FOR LEBANESE CHRISTIANS

TA090800Y Jerusalem POST in English 9 Mar 78 p 3 TA

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Yigael Yadin told the Knesset yesterday that Israel would continue to protect the Christians in South Lebanon from terrorist attacks.

He was replying, in his capacity as acting defence minister, to a motion for the agenda by Amnon Lin (Likud) on the capture of the village of Marun ar-R'as by terrorist organizations. The village is 2 kms from the Israeli border.

The motion was referred to the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee.

Lin said that Israel has always said it would not allow any Syrian force to go beyond the Litani River, that it could not remain passive if terrorist organizations again penetrated South Lebanon, and that it would protect the Christian populace of South Lebanon.

But now Israel's failure to act in the face of the capture of Marun ar-Ra's by the As-Sa'iqah, a Syrian-controlled terrorist organization, had put Israel's credibility in doubt. And beyond that, vital defence considerations make it imperative to oppose any attempt to allow the Syrian Army to control southern Lebanon, Lin said.

Yadin said that Israel is closely following developments in Lebanon. The penetration of what were essentially Syrian forces so close to our northern border is a matter of concern. The barbaric acts perpetrated by the terrorists against the Lebanese civilians made clear their methods and intentions.

The penetration of the As-Sa'iqah forces into Marun ar-Ra's was also a violation of the network of agreements that had led to a cease-fire in southern Lebanon, the purpose of which had been to ensure quiet near Israel's border, Yadin said.

The government will take such action as it sees fit, and will report to the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, he added.

Shelomo Hillel (Alinemet): "Following the violation was there any complaint or warning, or are you just putting it that way?"

Yadin: "I said we are following the situation and dealing with it, we shall deal with it as we see fit, and we shall report to the committee."

Yadin said that the government had more than once announced that it would not permit the Christians to fall. It had a moral obligation towards the Lebanese Christians.

BEGIN RESTATES ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION 242

TA081135Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said at the Knesset today that the government has accepted UN Security Council Resolution 242 and adheres to the declarations made by him and Foreign Minister Dayan to the Knesset on previous occasions. There is no contradiction between this resolution and Israel's peace plan regarding Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, he said, Resolution 242 has different interpretations.

The prime minister was replying to a motion for the agenda submitted by Alinemet MK Yig'al Allon who demanded that a political debate be held. Allon said that the government's determination that Resolution 242 did not apply to the Jordanian front had caused grave damage, harming the peace process and Israel's credibility.

Our correspondent says that in the course of the argument between Allon and the prime minister about the positions adopted by their corresponding parties in previous years, Begin defined the Allon plan as a farce and a childish program. He claimed that the Alinemet's interpretation of 242 was rejected both by the Arabs and the Americans. The prime minister is still speaking.

POST Report

TA090737Y Jerusalem POST in English 9 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Premier Menahem Begin yesterday charged the Alinemet with "irresponsible talk" for having accused him, on the eve of his "important" visit to the U.S. of undermining UN Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967.

Replying in the Knesset to the Alinemet's Yigal Allon, whose motion on the need for a political debate before the Washington trip was struck off the agenda, Begin said the government had accepted 242, and saw no contradiction between the meaning of 242 and its own peace proposals. Admittedly, 242 had a number of interpretations, he added. He said he would list them, but apparently forgot to do so, in the heat of an extremely lengthy and tiresome argument with the Alinemet benches, which did little to clarify the political issues.

Begin said the Alinemet government delayed its acceptance of 242 for a long time. The Allon plan for peace was a childish farce which the Arabs scorned and the United States termed "totally unacceptable."

In his motion Allon attacked Begin's West Bank self-rule plan because it did nothing to solve the Palestine problem and it would lead to the "de-Zionisation of Israel."

The Begin plan embodied all the negative elements of previous peace plans, Allon said.

Tawfiq Tubi (DFPE), who urged the motion be sent to committee, said the PLO was the authorized representative of the Palestine Arab people and it must take part in any negotiations. Arye Ali'av (Sheli) and Gid'on Hausner (ILP) abstained in the vote on Allon's proposal.

INTRACABINET DISPUTE BRINGS COMMENT FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS

Finance Minister's Views

TA071852Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 7 Mar 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] From the Knesset we will return to the issue of the threats to resign from the cabinet. Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich this evening denied that he had threatened resignation. Our correspondent Gid'on Zelinger spoke with the finance minister and about the way in which the cabinet made its decisions on the issue of Judaea and Samaria. [begin recording]

[Ehrlich] I sat in on the cabinet sessions. There was a practical, serious, parliamentary discussion. Cabinet members expressed their views. We reached a consensus. A decision was taken, almost unanimously--with one or two abstentions, I think, I cannot remember exactly--at last week's session which was also attended by the minister of defense. Since then nothing has changed. I do not understand what all this is about.

[Question] How do you understand the defense minister's statement?

[Answer] What statement? I have not read any statement by the defense minister.

[Question] I am speaking about a threat of resignation.

[Answer] A threat is not a statement, a statement is not a threat. I read in the papers about a threat. I do not know what the truth is about that threat. I have not heard from him. He is in New York, or on the way to Washington and so I cannot refer to that.

[Question] In your view, will other ministers, maybe you, follow in Minister 'Ezer Weizman's footsteps if something actually happens in the West Bank before the prime minister's visit to the United States?

[Answer] The question is very hypothetical and so the answer is hypothetical. When we get to that bridge we will think about how to cross it. As far as I am concerned the whole affair is stuff and nonsense.

[Question] Someone quoted you today as having said that you support Minister Weizman and what he said.

[Answer] I listened to the radio. What you have just said is not precise. There was a report on the radio that sources from the Ministry of Finance thought that if the minister of defense were to resign, it would bring with it further resignations. I was asked about it later. I said that I had not threatened to resign. [end recording]

Yadin on Reported Threats

TA071156Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Mar 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] "I have put my foot down hard"--a new and fresh addition to the dictionary said by 'Ezer Weizman in New York. I did not say that I would resign but I put my foot down in order to show that I meant what I said: If one bulldozer moves I will resign. That was the beginning, and the more the day goes on the more one can see a government that is raising a lot of smoke. If the defense minister resigns against the background of the settlements, senior circles in the Finance Ministry said, this would not be the only resignation. The assessment of our correspondent, after closely examining things, is that the finance minister would submit his resignation as might other ministers. However, we should be careful with this information as with other information--and getting things straight from the source is better than hearing reports. So we will begin with an interview with Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin which our political correspondent Shalom Qital conducted an hour ago, on the An-Nabi Salih affair that ignited the fire; [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Yadin, the defense minister is threatening to resign if the bulldozers start moving in An-Nabi Salih and you are now serving as acting defense minister. What, in fact, is happening? You are responsible for the movement of bulldozers in An-Nabi Salih. Is there a reason for the defense minister to resign?

[Answer] In my opinion, no. I do not know exactly what the defense minister did or did not say. What I want to say are the facts and it is this that is important. Prior to his departure for the United States the defense minister instructed that the preparation activities in An-Nabi Salih for the setting up of structures should be frozen until the prime minister returns from the United States. I can inform you officially that all the defense minister's instructions will be implemented.

[Question] What are the instructions? What is permitted and what is forbidden in An-Nabi Salih?

[Answer] This is what I am telling you. The defense minister instructed that the ground-work activities for the establishment of structure in An-Nabi Salih be frozen until the prime minister's return from the United States. The defense minister's instructions will be implemented.

[Question] Does this also include the paving of a road to An-Nabi Salih?

[Answer] If a road is being paved, I know the defense minister's instructions were that that was all right. Right now I am speaking about the defense minister's instructions. The defense minister's instructions will be implemented in full.

[Question] If that is the case what is he angry about? If everything is being done as he wishes, why is he threatening to resign?

[Answer] I do not know exactly what he said and what he did not say. I can tell you that at this moment the defense minister's instructions will be implemented.

[Question] You can see no reason for his resignation. We now hear about displays of solidarity from other ministers?

[Answer] I do not know. You know, every minister can decide what he wants and when he wants. To the extent that you are asking me in connection with remarks that have been attributed to the defense minister to the effect that he will resign if his instructions are not implemented, then he has no reason to resign because his instructions will be implemented. If there are other ministers--and I do not know who they are--expressing solidarity, this is their business.

[Question] Simha Ehrlich.

[Answer] I have not heard Minister Ehrlich say this. I think that the most important solidarity at this moment is that Weizman's instructions be implemented and, therefore, there is no reason for anyone to talk about resigning.

[Question] Perhaps another question, Mr Yadin. Whether there is a reason to resign is one thing--the fact is that rumors, reports and threats exist. Relations within the government are not what they once were. What do you have to say about this, Mr Yadin?

[Answer] First of all, I want to relate to what you said at the beginning. I am saying that there is no reason for resignation and I do not believe that there will be resignations. If someone said something about these activities I wish to repeat that activities will be conducted in accordance with the defense minister's instructions as given prior to his departure. I am telling you this as deputy prime minister and as acting defense minister.

The second question that you ask about is whether relations are not as they once were. I must tell you the truth--it is to be regretted that in the past few weeks there have been apparent manifestations which appear to show that one minister issued one set of instructions while another minister gave another. These things must cease. The government has collective responsibility. In fact, its decisions are usually--on issues of this kind--(?secret), and I hope that when the prime minister returns from the United States this issue will be a central issue for government discussion, because this must stop.
[end recording]

Ministers Split on Threat

TA080913Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 8 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's threat to resign and the personal and ideological dispute which it exposes caused marked embarrassment yesterday among cabinet members and indicated that the ministers were split into two camps: one rejecting the defense minister's moves and claiming that they are a violation of cabinet decisions; and one saying that the defense minister's positions have prevented appreciable political damage, such as what happened as a result of the fleshing-out in the Rafah approaches.

Yesterday the following details were made known about the events that led 'Ezer Weizman to threaten to resign: On Saturday evening, before leaving for Washington, Weizman told his office not to act on a previous intention to bring bulldozers to the An-Nabi Salih and Bet El areas until the return of the prime minister from Washington. The order was published by the press on Monday and pulled Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon into appealing against it to a group of ministers, including the prime minister. In a clarification the day before yesterday it emerged that Weizman's order contradicted the cabinet decision of 2 weeks ago, which stated that all previous decisions by the cabinet on the settlements issue were firm and valid.

The bulldozers' activity planned for An-Nabi Salih and Bet El was basically in keeping with previous decisions to maintain two settlements in those places. In fact, there have been nuclei in the field for some time and the groundbreaking work had been intended to broaden and improve their living conditions.

One of the claims Sharon made in his appeal was that Weizman's order exposed a weakness in the cabinet's position and would encourage the United States to continue to put on pressure.

When it emerged that the defense minister's order to freeze the bulldozers' groundbreaking plans did not fit in with previous cabinet decisions, the prime minister called for Weizman to clarify his position. During the conversation, Weizman lost his temper and, according to one version, said that he was prepared to come home and resign or, according to another version, that if his orders were not clear, he was prepared to return to Israel and explain them.

The tone of Weizman's remarks and the publicity given to them aroused the prime minister's dissatisfaction. A group of ministers claims that Weizman in fact tried to force the cabinet into accepting his interpretation and his position and thus had challenged the cabinet's authority and the prime minister's control. In contrast to this, another group of ministers thinks that Weizman, through his order to freeze the groundbreaking program at the two sites, saved the cabinet from superfluous and harmful confrontation with the United States on the eve of the visits by the prime minister and the foreign minister. According to his version, the bulldozers' action planned for An-Nabi Salih and Bet El was to have been similar to the campaign of fleshing out in the Rafah approaches.

The HA'AREZ Knesset correspondent reports:

Prime Minister Menahem Begin yesterday told Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres that his talk with Weizman had been a worrisome incident from a national standpoint. He had reservations as to the content of the defense minister's position and also about the leak of the report, which was causing harm to the country.

Peres refrained from reaction and expressed the view that it might have been a misunderstanding. When asked about this, Peres refused to say whether he had spoken with the prime minister about the Weizman incident.

Sharon Denies Threat

TA071130Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has denied a report that he threatened the prime minister that he would resign as chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs.

PERES: CABINET ENDANGERING GOOD WILL TOWARD ISRAEL

TA081046Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Mar 78 p 3 TA

[Excerpt] The existing goodwill toward Israel in the world has been endangered by the Likud cabinet, MK Shim'on Peres, chairman of the Labor Party, has said at a rally of party activists in East Jerusalem.

This is one of the most serious moments in the life of the country and we must not get into a situation of "cautious isolation." This is not the first time that public opinion in the United States has been faced with an Arab presentation of the issue, likely to erode Israel's status--if Israel does not know how to explain its positions correctly.

There is no chance of the Likud positions gaining sympathy in the United States, Peres said.

The Labor Party should now find itself in a situation of elevation and unification of forces. The former Alignment cabinet not only had an answer to Israel's military problems, but also to the challenge of peace, with a political program which included a compromise in Judaea and Samaria.

At a meeting with soldiers in Sinai, MK Peres said that, although this is not the first argument between us and the Americans, this is the first time that the Americans have taken sides in the dispute between Israel and the Arab countries, thus giving the advantage to the Arabs.

If the negotiations with Egypt are missed, Peres confirmed, Israel's situation will be more difficult than what existed before As-Sadat's visit. Had the Alignment conducted the negotiations, it would have shown much greater flexibility in Judaea and Samaria, while insisting on secure borders in Sinai.

Referring to the question of the settlements, Peres said that it is necessary to consider the timing and siting: For example, settlements in Quidmat Sinai [southeast of the Rafah approaches] are inappropriate, and it was not correct to dwell on settlements when the Egyptian Political Committee was in Jerusalem.

DAYAN ATTACKS FORMER ALINEMENT COLLEAGUES

TA081448Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan attacked in the Knesset Alinement MK's Rabin and Peres for causing--according to him--harm to Israeli publicity abroad. During a debate on two motions for the agenda regarding publicity in Europe, Mr Dayan said that Mr Rabin had not behaved properly when he had said that the Israeli Government's position prevented King Husayn from joining the negotiations. Mr Dayan said it was King Husayn's own positions which precluded his joining the negotiations. Mr Dayan quoted Mr Peres, who said that the Alinement would have accomplished peace had he conducted the negotiations. Mr Dayan accused Mr Peres of ignoring statements by the Egyptian president, who demanded a total withdrawal from the Golan, from Judaea, Samaria, from East Jerusalem, from the Gaza Strip, from the entire Sinai Peninsula, as well as the establishment of a Palestinian state. Does the Alinement accept these terms of As-Sadat? asked Dayan.

As for the subject in question, the publicity in Europe, the foreign minister said that our representations there are in contact with statesmen and with diplomats, with the media, with academic circles and with Jewish community leaders. In the framework of the foreign minister's visit to Europe, he granted interviews to the media, something which was done also by the prime minister during his visits. In order to update the heads of the missions, ambassadors have had three meetings with the foreign minister in recent months. In the last 3 months 84 European personalities have been invited to Israel. The Foreign Ministry played host to 26 European journalists. In recent months 12 publicity emissaries have been dispatched to Europe and in the next few months at least 10 more will go.

The Knesset decided not to discuss the subject in its plenary session.

BEGIN INTENDS TO REORGANIZE CABINET FUNCTIONS

TA082028Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has formulated clear plans about the changes he intends to introduce into the functions of the cabinet. Our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram says that circles close to Mr Begin reported that the prime minister has the political authority to make personnel changes in the cabinet. Mr Begin is not revealing his plans at this stage, but it is expected that after his return from the United States he will meet Likud faction leaders and raise with them detailed proposals.

Our correspondent has learned that Mr Begin will introduce functional changes in the division of duties of various cabinet members. What is meant is the transfer of authorities from one minister to another. Thus it is possible for example that the task of chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs will be transferred from the agriculture minister to another minister.

Our correspondent Elisha' Spiegelman reports that there is an intention to transfer Israel's Land Administration Authority from the Agriculture Ministry to the Housing Ministry, leaving under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Ministry only land defined as arable.

The cabinet will also discuss the demand of the energy and infrastructure minister to transfer the Water Resources Authority from the Agriculture Ministry to the jurisdiction of his ministry.

SETTLEMENTS CONTROVERSY CONTINUES, DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED

Weizman Communique

TA081835Y Paris AFP in English 1758 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv, Mar 8 (AFP)--Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman today attempted to paper over a split in the Israeli cabinet over the founding of new settlements in the occupied territories, but the issue has merely been put in abeyance.

In a communique released in Jerusalem, Gen Weizman expressed regret than an "exchange of views on such a delicate topic had been published in the press, out of context, and partially distorted."

He was referring to reports that he had threatened to resign if new settlements were allowed to go ahead despite his explicit order, issued before his departure for talks in the United States on March 4, that all work be halted.

Minister Pat Comments

TA071739Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1605 GMT 7 Mar 78 TA

["Gentlemen the Press" program: interview of Minister of Construction and Housing Gid'on Pat, moderated by Yeshiyahu Ben-Porat and editor 'Emmanuel Hare'uveini]

[Excerpt] Good evening, we are bringing you our program "Gentlemen the Press" from Bet Agron in Jerusalem. This time the program's guest is Minister of Construction and Housing Mr Gid'on Pat. Good evening, Mr Minister. I want to ask you the first question as a cabinet member, and not about the specific realm for which you are appointed. It appears, Mr Minister, that there is a serious dispute in the cabinet over the question of the settlements. There are those who are in favor of freezing them and there are those who find it hard to accept this judgment. Where do you stand, Mr Minister?

[Pat] I think that the issue of the settlements is not the factor breaking down what is called the momentum in the process of peace. I think it is naive to say, or to think, that had we stopped the settlements as soon as As-Sadat came to Jerusalem, this would have created facts other than those in existence today. However, my position on the issue of the settlements then was also different from the accepted format. I am of the opinion that the settlements should be made in the correct way, with the correct timing.

As for the way; I have expressed my views several times, both in sessions of the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs and in cabinet sessions. I am not a great supporter of the method of "covering every inch" and I am not a great supporter of pins in the map. The problem of our presence in Judaea and Samaria does not spring from several existing settlements in Judaea and Samaria, but from scattered Jews who are living in Judaea and Samaria.

As long as we do not plan our settlement of this territory in a very, very controlled and clear way--if there is any long-term thinking--then we are, to my great regret, establishing settlements and settlement points where a population of 30 or 40 families at the most will be gathered. I am, therefore, a supporter of, and I believe in, broader settlement in fewer places, but where a much larger population will live.

As for the timing, I think that the timing today is miserable. Now is not the time to make a lot of noise about the issue of settlements in Judaea and Samaria. I supported the cabinet decisions which were made at the latest cabinet sessions and you are aware of those decisions. If you ask me my position in principle regarding the settlements in general, I am in favor of settlements. I think that we need to determine our presence in Judaea, in Samaria and in the Gaza Strip and the Rafah approaches, or the Yamit Strip, as we want to call it, but the timing, at this stage is miserable.

Gush Emunim Condemns Government

TA071132Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The leaders of Gush Emunim this morning openly attacked the government's settlement policy. At a press conference they held in Jerusalem Rabbi Moshe Levinger said that Gush Emunim is of the opinion that it is inconceivable to freeze settlements, as they are the foundation of the spirit of Zionism, as he put it.

Rabbi Levinger announced that the Gush Emunim Secretariat has decided to set up settlement nuclei for various regions after the situation that arose in the wake of the decision not to allow the Qadesh Barne'a nucleus to establish a settlement.

Prof 'Ezra Zohar, who also spoke at the press conference, said that there was no cause to freeze the settlements during the negotiations with Egypt.

Gush Emunim Demonstration

TA081125Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Several hundred settlers from Gush Emunim settlements in Judaea and Samaria this morning demonstrated in front of the Knesset building against the government's settlement policy. The Gush Emunim spokesman said they were protesting against the estrangement of this government from the electorate that gave it power and against what they called the humiliation of Jews by holding them behind the fences of army camps. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer remarks that the heads of Gush Emunim will meet with Mafdal and Likud Knesset members today and will demand that they come and see the sub-human--according to the claim of the Gush Emunim leaders--conditions in which the settlers in Judaea and Samaria live.

Anti-Gush Emunim Group Organized

TA081916Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] A group called Shalom 'Akhshav [Peace Now] has been established in Haifa to operate in conjunction with similar groups in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, particularly in a struggle against the new settlements in the territories and against Gush Emunim. Our correspondent Ya'akov Peri'el has learned that this is a nonpartisan group, whose members are of various political opinions, from Mafdal to Sheli.

Plans To Expand Hares

TA071259Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Amir Shapira]

[Excerpt] The Housing Ministry has begun planning for extensive building activity in the settlement of Hares located along the Samaria road and scheduled to become an urban settlement. This was made possible after a pertinent decision and a special budget of 40 million Israeli pounds was put at the disposal of the ministry.

Last Thursday officials of the Construction and Housing Ministry were told by the official in the Finance Ministry in charge of budgets that the required money had been released for the purpose of starting construction activity and that the team of planners would get to the site by next Sunday. Sources on the scene told me that the planned activity will include work on the development of an urban infrastructure that may, in the initial stage, consist of the erection of residential neighborhoods.

Since the beginning of the week a team of workers from the ministry has been busy measuring and drawing up plans, intending to speed up the project following approval from senior levels. From details I have, it appears that the decision about massive construction activity at Hares stems from the concept adopted by senior elements according to which we should concentrate on the fleshing-out of existing settlements, settlements regarding which there is a cabinet decision and which do not deviate from the framework of understanding with the United States on the issue of settlement.

Encampment Ordered Prevented

TA081722Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The military governor of Al-'Arish was ordered to prevent the encampment of the Haruvit settlers on the site earmarked for their permanent settlement. This has been learned by our correspondent Shemu'el Tal. The military governor of Al-'Arish, Col Moshe Dahan, told our correspondent that the settlers of Haruvit have so far not made any attempt to settle at their permanent settlement, about 3 km northwest of Al-'Arish. He added he had no intention of deploying patrols at the site to prevent such an action.

BEGIN'S PLAN FOR U.S. VISIT ELICITS COMMENT

TA061636Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Excerpt] Recently, as part of the preparations for his trip to Washington, the prime minister scrutinized all the maps used by previous governments in their discussions and political talks with the United States. He did so apparently because he needs to show that the government's peace plan is the most practical.

As for Egypt, Israel agrees to return sovereignty over the entire Sinai and has even canceled a previous government's decision concerning a territorial continuity from Elat to Sharm ash-Shaykh. As for the area in the Sinai in which Israeli settlements are located--Israel does not demand sovereignty.

As for Judaea and Samaria--the ministerial team will emphasize in the United States that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has checked with Jordan, at first hand (the foreign press has reported that Minister Dayan met with King Husayn) what territorial compromise Jordan will be prepared for within the framework of a peace agreement. The reply of that authoritative element with whom Minister Dayan talked was that no territorial compromise is possible and that no Arab leader will sign on the transfer of "holy Arab land" to the State of Israel.

In consolidating the autonomy plan as a basis for a settlement, the government has based itself on a realistic situation and looked for a way to satisfy all parties and prevent a deadlock resulting from the argument revolving around questions of sovereignty and territories. The Israeli plan aims to answer mainly that problem which seems insoluble, namely, the problem of sovereignty.

During the consultations held with the prime minister, criticism was leveled at the Alignment heads who have aligned themselves against the government "out of selfish settling of accounts," although they know very well that no plan submitted by the Alignment governments regarding Judaea and Samaria, including the minimal plan known as the "Allon Plan," has ever been accepted as a basis for negotiations--either by Jordan or by the United States.

The government yesterday dealt with Resolution 242, which has become the central problem in the contacts with the United States since Washington does not accept the Israeli claim that this resolution does not apply to all fronts, namely, that it does not compel Israel to withdraw from Judaea and Samaria. After the discussion the prime minister and the ministerial team will be able to continue claiming that there is a difference between the Sinai and Judaea-Samaria, since regarding the Sinai there was an international border whereas the West Bank was conquered by Jordan in an aggressive war and annexed by it. Jordan does not, therefore, have any rights to the West Bank, or, as defined by one cabinet member: "It is known that no right can emerge out of wrong."

In view of this the prime minister will ask the United States to lay aside the legal argument and the argument in principle and support the Israeli peace plan, which is, practically speaking, the only plan which can solve the problems pertaining to Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip for the long term, from the moment Israel, despite its right, agrees not to extend its sovereignty to these territories.

MINISTERS WILL NOT DEVIATE FROM CABINET DECISIONS IN U.S.

TA071455Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 7 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Yona Kohen]

[Text] In its meeting the day before yesterday the government clearly concluded that the delegation of the three ministers (the prime minister and the defense and foreign ministers), in their meetings and talks with the U.S. President and administration heads, will avoid a commitment or agreement to any proposal deviating from the framework of our government's and Knesset's decisions and proposals.

It was reported that the three delegation members undertook to observe this. It was also learned from a (?reliable) source that in that meeting the delegation of Begin, Weizman and Dayan were given clear and detailed instructions regarding each of the problems that are expected to arise in the talks in Washington.

LEAFLETS URGE GENERAL STRIKE ON LAND DAY

TA071522Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 7 Mar 78 p 10 TA

[By Yehuda Ari'el]

[Excerpt] A call for general strike on 30 March "in the holy memory of the six people killed on Land Day and to protest against the expropriation of Arab lands," is included in a new leaflet in Arabic distributed yesterday in the villages of the Galilee and the triangle, including schools. This is the second anti-Israeli leaflet distributed within a week.

The leaflet is signed by: "The Village Inhabitants," the Committee of Arab Students in Jerusalem, the Committee of Arab Students in Haifa, the Bereaved Parents of Those Killed on 31 March, the "Nahda" (rebels) Committee from Et Taiyiba, the Secretariat of the Triangle and the Committee for the Protection of Arab Lands.

This leaflet, like the one preceding it, calls for action against the authorities and the state but it does not amount to incitement in the criminal sense of the word.

Strike Call Rejected

TA071856Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Mar 78 TA

[Text] A committee of the heads of the regional Arab councils has rejected a proposal to hold a general strike on 30 March to mark Land Day. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the decision was made at the end of a stormy discussion this afternoon in Nazareth, also attended by representatives of the Committees for Defense of Arab Lands. Instead of the general strike, those present decided to convene three mass rallies; one in the Negev, one in the triangle and the third in Sakhnin in the Bet Neqofa Valley. That village will host the main rally and at it eulogies will be made from the memorial in the memory of the six Arab citizens who were killed on 30 March 2 years ago.

JURISTS FORM COMMITTEE ON BEHALF OF BEDOUINS

TA082055Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Several jurists and scientists are acting on behalf of the Bedouins in the south to set up a public committee to act to resolve the differences of opinion between the Bedouins and the government. In a press conference in Tel Aviv today, the initiators said that they have come to the conclusion that in the current and judicial situation the Bedouins cannot prove their right on the lands, and therefore the implementation of the lands agreement means, according to the members of the committee, a total eviction of the Bedouins from their lands. Our correspondent reports that the authors of the report acted after they had been approached privately by Bedouin chiefs in the Negev, and that they do not belong to any party.

MINISTRY ADVISER URGES REDUCTION OF BEDOUIN HERDS

TA082056Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister's adviser for Arab affairs, Dr Moshe Sharon, told our correspondent Basam Jabir that he supports Agriculture Minister Sharon's plan to reduce drastically the Bedouin herds.

He said that there is no room in the Negev for 250,000 head--which he says is what they now number--or for even half that many. Visting several tribes in the Negev, Dr Sharon said that a committee has been set up to examine possibilities of improving vocational education among the Bedouins.

'GREEN PATROL' TO CONTINUE GUARD AGAINST BEDOUIN HERDS

TA082057Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The Green Patrol will continue guarding against Bedouins and the herds they put to graze outside the Bedouins' original habitat in the Negev. The agriculture minister's adviser Hillel Adiri told our correspondent Gad Levi that there is no truth in the report that a high-level decision has been taken to stop the patrol's activities. He told our correspondent that approximately 2 weeks ago a high-level decision was indeed taken to grant the Bedouins an extension of time because of the continuing drought, and to permit registered herds to continue to graze in the north, but that does not mean that the patrol is ending its activities. It has other duties as well, such as preventing the entrance of herds from the Sinai, guarding sites to which entrance of herds is strictly forbidden, such as natural reserves, and regular supervision.

SYRIANS DISGUISED AS TERRORISTS SAID NEAR BORDER

TA081117Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[By Arye Zimmuqi]

[Text] Hundreds of terrorists from the As-Sa'iqah organization, which is controlled by Syria, and Syrian soldiers disguised as terrorists have recently been transferred by the Syrian authorities south of the "red line." Many of them are located 2 km from the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Until recently the Syrians were careful not to cross the "red line" and they even stopped the As-Sa'iqah organization from doing so, but over the last few weeks this situation has changed.

Members of As-sa'iqah who took over the village of Marun ar-Ra's are reinforcing a hill about 2 km from the Israeli border, which has an excellent control over a series of Israeli settlements.

In the meantime, the Christian Phalangist radio reported yesterday that there was tension throughout this area, and a Palestinian terrorist leader in eastern Lebanon was shot and seriously wounded while on his way from Syria to Beirut. The man is Abu Sa'id, who left the Fatah organization last year and established an organization of his own, called (Fatah al-Ter'ura).

While Abu Sa'id's car was approaching the town of (Dahr al-Zaydar) it was fired on from ambush.

ALMA WELLS TO BEGIN PRODUCING NEXT WEEK

TA090811Y Jerusalem POST in English 9 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Yitzhak Oked]

[Text] Tel Aviv--Israel will begin commercial exploitation of oil from the Alma II and III wells near At Tur in the Bulf of Suez in about a week.

Yisra'el Li'or, commissioner for oil exploration, told the POST last night that preparations were now under way for transporting the oil from the wells to Elat by tanker. Alma IV is now being explored, and it is expected that the results will be known in a couple of weeks. Alma II and III would be producing 10,000 to 12,000 barrels of oil a day, Li'or said.

He added that foreign companies are showing great interest in oil prospecting in Israel, and he is engaged in negotiations with "a number of people" on future exploration.

He said that drilling offshore at Al 'Arish, which cost \$110 million, had ceased while the results are evaluated. The exploration company involved, City Drilling, has completed its year-long contract. This did not mean that drilling would be stopped in this area, Li'or stressed, and pointed out that the government had allocated funds for it in the state budget.

AGREEMENT REACHED WITH MEXICO ON OIL PURCHASE

TA081919Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Mexico has undertaken to supply Israel with any quantity of oil it requests, including short-term orders. This agreement was reached in a meeting between Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Yizhaq Moda'i and his Mexican counterpart. The two countries have also agreed to cooperate in research and development in various fields of energy, including solar energy and producing electricity from plants operated by water. Minister Moda'i is in Mexico on a bonds mission.

MAPAM DELEGATION RETURNS FROM ROMANIA

TA082057Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu told the MAPAM delegation that his government was worried by what is being said in Israel, as if Resolution 242 does not include the West Bank. The head of the delegation, MK Me'ir Talmi, reported on this tonight, on his return to Israel. Our correspondent Asher Schwartz says the Romanian president told the members of the delegation that there are moments when a historic opportunity can be missed.

SHARON DUE TO MAKE PRIVATE VISIT TO FRG

TA081416Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon will set out, in about a week's time, for West Germany for a 2-day private visit as the guest of AGREXCO [Israel's agricultural export company]. It is not yet known whether he will talk with his German counterpart, although Mr Sharon expressed the desire to meet with statesmen in Bonn.

Our correspondent Midka'el Karpin reports that Israel's Embassy in Bonn did not receive an official notification about the visit, having learned of it only after AGREXCO approached it with a request for a timetable for the visit. Our correspondent adds that Mr Sharon's visit is liable to cause information difficulties in West Germany due to his position regarding settlements in the territories. The debate in the cabinet on the issue was amply covered by German media.

PERES LEAVES FOR BRUSSELS, BURG FOR DUBLIN

TA081257Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres left Israel this morning for Brussels where he is to meet Belgian Foreign Minister Simonet. On his departure Peres said he hoped the sale of Kfir aircraft to Taiwan would benefit the production of the Ayre aircraft. After his Belgian visit Peres is due to lead a Labor Party delegation to Bucharest for meetings at the end of this week with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Also leaving Israel this morning was Interior Minister Yosef Burg bound for Dublin for official talks with Irish republican leaders. Burg will proceed from Dublin to England and West Germany. Burg told newsmen at Ben-Gurion Airport that he would be looking into possibilities of strengthening diplomatic ties between Israel and the Irish Republic. At present Ireland has a nonresident ambassador who is responsible for Irish interests in Israel.

BAHRAINI CROWN PRINCE COMMENTS ON VISIT TO IRAN

LDO81212Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Isa ibn Hamad Al Khalifah, crown prince and defense minister of Bahrain, who arrived in Teheran yesterday at the invitation of His Highness Prince Abdorreza Pahlavi, left Teheran for Kish Island this morning for a tour of tourist facilities. His highness the crown prince and defense minister of Bahrain was seen off at Mehrabad Airport by His Highness Prince Abdorreza Pahlavi. At the end of his visit to Teheran, his highness the crown prince and defense minister of Bahrain expressed gratitude for having been received by the shah and said: This audience and the cordial welcome accorded me in Iran is a sign of the consolidation of the very friendly relations of the two countries.

His highness the crown prince of Bahrain said: Iran and Bahrain, under the leadership of the shah and His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, undertake joint cooperation in all fields. The crown prince and defense minister of Bahrain said: I had the opportunity during this trip to visit major Iranian projects which are a source of admiration for us. I also had the opportunity at my meeting with Mr Jamshid Amuzegar, prime minister of Iran, to discuss Iran-Bahrain joint cooperation and relevant regional issues, particularly Iran's policy in support of the Arabs.

COOPERATION PROTOCOL ON CASPIAN SEA SIGNED WITH USSR

LDO81200Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Text] At the end of the fifth session of the permanent Iranian-Soviet working group, the two countries signed a protocol of cooperation for the prevention of pollution of the Caspian Sea at the environment protection organization this morning. The session considered the exchange of results obtained from Iranian and Soviet cooperation on the prevention of pollution in the Caspian Sea during 1977, the two countries' program for scientific and technical cooperation on the prevention of pollution of the Caspian Sea for 1978-80, the results obtained from the three joint study trips in the southern Caspian Sea as well as the training of Iranian experts in the USSR on ascertaining hydrochemical elements and factors.

The Soviet delegation presented a full report of the third trip on marine research to the Iranian delegation. It was also agreed that the fourth trip should take place in the second half of 1978 in the Soviet research ship Radul and on an Iranian aircraft equipped with a photography unit.

According to the agreement, the sixth session of the Iranian-Soviet permanent working group on the prevention of pollution in the Caspian Sea will be held during the later half of 1978 in the USSR. There will be relevant studies on fish ecology and logical and sensible exploitation of the Caspian Sea and studies pertaining to the combination and rate of pollution of the sea sedimentation, which are pertinent to the Radul research, on five occasions until 1980, lasting a month each time with the participation of Iranian and Soviet environment experts on the research ship (Ekatremon).

BANGLADESH

PRESIDENT ZIA RETURNS FROM UAE VISIT 8 MARCH

BK081448Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[Text] On his return to Dacca this afternoon, President Zia said his visit to the UAE was a complete success. He said the UAE is coming in a sizeable manner to assist Bangladesh in its development efforts.

President Zia returned to Dacca this afternoon at the end of his 3-day state visit to the United Arab Emirates.

On arrival at the airport the president was given a ceremonious reception.

OSMANI OPPOSES OFFICIALS BELONGING TO PARTIES

BK081649Y Dacca SANGBAD in Bengali 1 Mar 78 p 1 BK

[By our own correspondent]

[Text] Commenting on the formation of the Jatiyatabadi Ganatantrik Dal [political party]--(retired) Gen M.A.G. Osmani, leader of the Jatiya Janata Party, said: Having faith in parliamentary democracy we welcome the emergence of any political party which believes in the people's sovereignty and the constitutional system.

He said that the leaders of the present government are not elected representatives. He said that, as government servants, they are engaged in a gainful profession and, if they join any political party, it will not be in keeping with the nonparty and nonpolitical nature of the government. Allowing them to join any political party would amount to the government's transgression of the nonparty concept and a deviation from the pledges it has made to the public.

In conclusion, the leader of the Janata Party said: However, they can resign from their government positions and join any party.

INDIA

VISITING PRC OFFICIAL EXTENDS INVITATION TO VAJPAYEE

BK081547Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has been invited to visit China. The invitation from the foreign minister of China, Mr Huang Hua, was conveyed by the leader of the visiting Chinese good-will delegation, Mr Wang Ping-nan, and the Chinese ambassador to India, Mr Chen Chao-yuan, when they called on Mr Vajpayee in New Delhi today.

Mr Vajpayee has accepted the invitation in principle. The external affairs minister said such a visit can take place at an appropriate time after due and careful preparation.

The AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent understands that while the Chinese side felt that the time is ripe for such a visit, Mr Vajpayee pointed out that he is an elected representative and there is a public opinion in the country. He explained to the delegation that the Janata Party government has been pursuing an independent foreign policy and wants to strengthen friendly relations with all the neighboring countries. With this in view, he had already visited several countries, including Pakistan and Nepal.

Mr Vajpayee said that India is not influenced by any third country in strengthening bilateral relations.

The meeting, which lasted nearly 90 minutes, was held in a cordial atmosphere. Mr Vajpayee and Mr Wang reviewed relations between India and China over the last 1 and a half years since the posting of ambassadors in each other's country. They expressed confidence that further exchanges would take place in diverse fields. Mr Wang, who is leading a 12-member team, is the president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries. The delegation has come at the invitation of the Kotnis Memorial Committee.

VAJPAYEE TO VISIT MAURITIUS 10-14 MARCH

BK011521Y Delhi ISI in English 1452 GMT 1 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Minister of External Affairs Atal Bihari Vajpayee will be visiting Mauritius from March 10 to 14, 1978, at the invitation of the prime minister of Mauritius, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam.

The visit coincides with the 10th anniversary of the independence of Mauritius falling on March 12.

During his visit Vajpayee will discuss with the Mauritian prime minister and other leaders international issues in general, including the southern African situation, the situation in the Horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean as well as matters of bilateral interest.

JANATA WINS IN ARUNACHAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

BK081609Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The last result from Arunachal Pradesh has come in. The PPA [People's Party of Arunachal] candidate, Mr (Tara Toyng), has been declared elected from the (Taksing Taliha) constituency. He defeated his nearest rival by a margin of 133 votes. The final party position is: Results declared 30: Janata 17; PPA 8; Independents 5.

Two independents are reported to have joined the Janata Party.

CPI-M SCORES CONGRESS PARTIES, JANATA, CPI

BK061233Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 6 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPI-M] has called upon all left and democratic forces to stand together and mobilize the people to give a rebuff to the upholders of the emergency. In a statement in New Delhi, the Central Committee of the party said that the recent assembly elections have shown that the main opposer to democracy and parliamentary norms has again raised its head.

The CPI-M statement also blamed the Janata Party for what it called its many weaknesses in functioning at the center and in the states.

Criticizing the CPI [Communist Party of India] for its alliance with both the Congress parties in different states, the CPI-M Central Committee described the CPI as an ally of the forces of dictatorship.

NEPAL

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT LEAVES NEPAL 8 MAR

BK081514Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Vice President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Mr Kang Yang-uk left Katmandu today for Dacca by a special aircraft at the end of his 6-day official visit to Nepal. Mr Kang was given a warm sendoff at Tribhuvan International Airport by Prime Minister Kirti Nidhi Bista. A contingent of the Royal Nepal Army presented the guard of honor to Mr Kang just before his departure.

Present at the airport to see the guests off were the chief justice, the Raj Sabha [Royal Council] Standing Committee chairman, ministers, heads of the diplomatic corps and high officials of his majesty's government.

PAKISTAN

AFGAN PRESIDENT, HAQ SPEAK AT RAWALPINDI BANQUET

BK080943Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The visiting Afgan president, Mr Mohammad Daud, has said that, with the renewal of talks between the leaders of Pakistan and Afghanistan, a new chapter of good will and better understanding has been opened between them. He was speaking at a banquet given in his honor by the chief of the army staff and the chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Rawalpindi last night.

He recalled the chief martial law administrator's visit to Afghanistan and said that, though his visit was a brief one, they had friendly and sincere talks covering relations between the two countries. He described his talks as extremely useful and productive. The Afgan president said that the historic ties and spiritual bonds between the people of the two countries and the creation of a spirit of cooperation in the desired fields will herald a new chapter in relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. He said with good will and cooperation they could resume their great and historical responsibilities.

In his speech, the chief martial law administrator said the present visit of the Afgan president to Pakistan has not only helped them to know each other better, but it also promoted mutual trust and friendship between the two countries. He said besides the two rounds of talks he had with the Afgan president, informal talks continued at their many meetings. He said he has been greatly impressed by President Daud's sagacity, farsightedness and understanding. He said he understands that President Daud sincerely wants to see Pakistan a strong and prosperous country. He assured him that his government and the people of Pakistan have had deep sentiments of the friendship and cordiality for the brotherly people, government and the president of Afghanistan. The people of Pakistan highly valued President Daud's present visit to their country and hoped that the atmosphere of mutual trust and friendship would further improve with every passing day.

Daud Holds Press Conference

BK081105Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[Text] President Daud has said that Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to increase bilateral trade and economic cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit. He was addressing a press conference in Rawalpindi this morning before leaving for Kabul at the end of his 3-day visit to Pakistan.

President Daud said that both countries will exchange (?delegations) to determine the best way to carry out this task. He said that a joint commission of the two countries may also be set up to achieve this objective. Answering a question, he said that Afghanistan is ready to set up such a commission at the ministerial or official level.

Referring to his talks with Chief of Army Staff and Chief Martial Law Administrator Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, President Daud said that these talks were held in a very cordial, fraternal and friendly atmosphere, and that he could say that we have taken yet another step toward improving relations between the two countries.

He said that he believes that the results of their talks will be useful for Pakistan and Afghanistan. He said that both countries fully understand each other's stands and have come to realize the extent to which their future interests are intertwined.

The people of Afghanistan believe that Pakistan-Afghanistan friendship is essential for the progress and prosperity of both countries in the current critical situation. He expressed the hope that nothing will remain in the hearts of the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan such as had separated them from each other in the past and that all forms of suspicion and doubt will end.

The Afgan president thanked the people and Government of Pakistan for extending a warm welcome to him during his stay in Pakistan.

He invited President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry and chief martial law administrator to visit Kabul.

Haq Comments on Visit

BK081107Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[Excerpt] Talking to newsmen at [Rawalpindi] airport, the chief martial law administrator [who was present there to see off President Daud] said that the Afgan president's visit and his talks with him were a major step toward the betterment of Pakistani-Afgan relations. This was clearly reflected in the Afgan president's meeting with political leaders and in the civic reception accorded to him in Lahore.

About his visiting Kabul, he said the date of the visit is being finalized. He said that Afghanistan is a fraternal neighboring country and that he can visit it anytime.

Asked about the restrictions on political activities, the chief martial law administrator said there is no possibility of lifting these restrictions before the 31st of this month. When asked whether this date will be extended, he said that before the deadline [31 March] the situation will be reviewed.

In his reply to a question about the hearing of Mr Bhutto's next cases in Kot Lakhpat jail [in Lahore], he said that these cases will have an open hearing and the press will be allowed to cover them. Regarding the place of hearing, it will be selected from a security point of view.

President Daud has since arrived in Kabul.

DPRK VICE PREMIER STOP IN KARACHI EN ROUTE TO PRC

HK091014Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] DPRK Vice Premier Kong Chin-tae, who is concurrently in charge of external economic affairs, arrived in Karachi this morning en route to China. He is due to leave for Peking this evening after a day's stopover in the city.

PAKISTANI POLICE ARREST 200 BHUTTO SUPPORTERS

HK091305Y Singapore Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] About 200 supporters of the former Pakistani prime minister, Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, have been arrested in Punjab Province in the last 24 hours.

The martial law government has warned that it will not tolerate demonstrations when the verdict on the charge of conspiracy to murder against Mr Bhutto is given. The verdict is expected any time now.

Mr Bhutto's trial on corruption charges is also expected to be held in Lahore this week.

BRIEFS

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS EXPORTS--Pakistan is expected to export petroleum products worth 86 million rupees during the current fiscal year. Export of petroleum products has registered a substantial rise during the last 5 years. Pakistan has exported petroleum products to a number of countries, including Turkey, Britain, the United States, the UAE and Bangladesh. [Text] [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 2 Mar 78 BK]

RICE EXPORTS--Pakistan has contracted to export over 800,000 tons of rice valued at more than 2.3 billion rupees during the current financial year. The chairman of the Rice Export Corporation said in Karachi on 5 March that Ghana and Turkey have purchased 50,000 tons of rice each, while Madagascar has bought 30,000 tons of rice. [Text] [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 6 Mar 78 BK]

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